

## Party wound up after nine years

# Owen leads the SDP out of existence

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND RICHARD FORD

THE Social Democratic Party was wound up last night after Dr David Owen and his two fellow MPs said it was no longer big enough to carry on as a national force.

The decision to dismantle the party after a nine-year struggle to take the centre of politics came at an emergency meeting of the party's national committee at a London hotel. The committee voted by 17 votes to 5 to suspend the party's constitution, effectively ending its existence. Party leaders said, however, that there would be a revived Campaign for Social Democracy to keep the SDP's aims and values alive.

Dr Owen, Mrs Rosie Barnes and Mr John Cartwright are to continue sitting in the Commons as independent social democrats, and they say they expect to fight the next election under that banner. Dr Owen made plain, however, that he had made no final decision about his future.

Yesterday's decision was hastened by the party's humiliation in the Bootle by-election and its portrayal since as a fringe group. Mr Cartwright said: "It was destroying all we stood for to see it become a subject for jokes and derision. It is better to put it out of its misery." Dr Owen said: "We have had good times in the SDP, high moments and black moments. We have made an important

contribution to Britain through the 1980s."

The move was bitterly opposed by a small group led by Mr John Martin, a past candidate for the party presidency, who promised last night to consult party activists on whether they wished to continue. Before the 3½-hour executive committee meeting, he had accused Dr Owen of "dumping the party". It had, he said, become inconvenient to Dr Owen who was attempting "to work his way back to Labour".

The national committee said in its statement that the SDP no longer had the membership or popular support to sustain it as a democratically-based national political party. The SDP had 6,200 members of whom 2,200 were due to renew their membership this summer. The party expected membership to fall to four thousand by the end of the year. "This is a very sad day for us and many others who have campaigned for the SDP and believe in the values of social democracy. National parties are established for political purposes, but they must at all times be fully representative and truly democratic. They have no automatic right to be permanent features of the political scene."

The three SDP MPs and the party's peers are to retain whips at Westminster. It is expected that half of the party's eight-strong parliamentary staff will be made redundant, but its parliamentary support staff will be kept on.

The other political parties immediately began to woo SDP supporters. Dr John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, said his party would continue to welcome SDP members who applied to join. "The demise of the SDP is testimony to the Labour Party's strength," David Owen and the SDP are right to recognize this and draw the obvious conclusions. For them the party is well and truly over."

But senior Labour figures pointed out the dilemma the party would face if any of the three SDP MPs applied to join. It has already chosen prospective parliamentary candidates in Greenwith and Woolwich, the constituencies held by Mrs Barnes and Mr Cartwright. Mrs Barnes said last night: "I have to acknowl-

edge that Labour's policy review has been substantial. I am far more interested in talking to Labour now." A candidate has not yet been chosen for Dr Owen's seat in Plymouth, Devonport, but several left-wing Labour MPs would strongly oppose his return to the party.

Mrs Shirley Williams, one of the original Gang of Four, said the Liberal Democrats were closer to the policies of the SDP than Labour. "David Owen, John Cartwright and Rosemary Barnes also believe in them. We would welcome them with open arms."

Mr Cartwright reported that the meeting had been friendly and good-natured, although on arrival, Dr Owen said: "I do not relish this." Inside the meeting, he said the tragedy was that millions of people who still believed in the SDP did not have a home. That was why the leadership had "clung" to the SDP after doubts had been raised whether its falling membership could sustain it.

Dr Owen was not ready to join the Labour party, but it was "nowhere near as dangerous as it was". The SDP had been the first truly democratic party. It had achieved changes in both Conservative and Labour party policies. "We have not fought in vain."

Mrs Barnes said: "It was becoming a pretence. We cannot pretend to be a democratically-based national party with a membership of just over six thousand."

Yesterday's decision was taken after discussions last week between MPs, peers and the party's trustees. It was not taken because of lack of finance. Mr David Sainsbury, the grocery chain chief, had not threatened to withdraw support, although it is understood that he backed the decision to disband.

Some committee members were angry at the way the decision appeared to have been taken without consultation. Mr Geoffrey Drake said the meeting had been intended as an inquest into the Bootle result, but it had been transformed into a debate on the existence of the party.

Party history, page 2  
Cabinet careers, page 10  
William Rodgers, page 10  
Leading article, page 11

## Peking students hurl bottles at police

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

STUDENTS at Peking University jeered at armed troops from their dormitory balconies last night and hurled bottles and bricks at police cars to mark the first anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The troops moved out of the area, apparently to avoid further confrontation, shortly after 11pm. The students continued to shout and to throw objects as an armed patrol later drove slowly past their dormitory, some of the soldiers in motorcycle sidecars pointing guns at the balconies.

Students, standing out against the light shining in their rooms, threw bottles at police cars, cheering when

they scored a hit.

Peking University was at the heart of last year's demonstrations, and despite a heavy dose of ideological education and warning has not let its spirit be broken. It has been the site of several small-scale protests since last June, including attempts to gather and demonstrate.

Hurling bottles has a special significance in China since the word "litter bottle" in Chinese is the same as the name of Deng Xiaoping. Breaking bottles, therefore, is a symbolic breaking of the leader's power.

Journalists harassed, page 7  
Leading article, page 11



End of the road: Dr David Owen with his fellow SDP MPs, Mrs Rosie Barnes and Mr John Cartwright, last night

## 'Forward step' by Iran on Rushdie

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE Iranian Government appears to have adopted a conciliatory tone towards the Salman Rushdie affair, which remains the biggest stumbling block in resumption of diplomatic relations between Britain and Iran.

Mr Hussein Musavian, a senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official, was quoted in *The Sunday Times* as saying that Tehran condemned "internal interference" in any country. "We believe the domestic law of a country should be honoured."

Middle East experts in the Foreign Office said this appeared to be a step forward.

Both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, commented yesterday on Mr Musavian's remarks. The Prime Minister, speaking on BBC, described them as a significant "olive branch". She said Britons understood Muslim sensitivity to blasphemy but also believed in freedom of speech.

Mr Hurd said in Jeddah that he would not condemn Mr Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses* which Iran considers blasphemous, but was willing to have direct contacts with Tehran "if they produce useful results".

Iran photograph, page 9



Mr Hurd: will not condemn Salman Rushdie

## Summit fails to solve three main problems

From PETER STOTHARD AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN WASHINGTON

THE Washington Summit ended yesterday with the personal relationship of the US and Soviet Presidents enhanced, but continuing disagreement on three of the major topics of discussion: Germany, Lithuania and the emigration of Soviet Jews.

As President Gorbachev and his party flew to Minnesota to meet farmers and businessmen, concern was voiced in Washington that President Bush had concluded a trade agreement with the Soviet Union without any undertaking from Moscow to lift its economic blockade against Lithuania.

At a joint press conference in the White House, President Bush and President Gorbachev - deferring to each other as they had at their first joint press conference in Malta last December - spoke of the frankness with which their talks had been conducted, especially at Camp David on Saturday, and their mutual desire for more frequent and less formal meetings in future.

They announced that summits would be held at least once a year from now on, and President Gorbachev revealed that he had invited President

Bush to pay a state visit to the Soviet Union outside the framework of any summit negotiations.

Mr Gorbachev was visibly delighted with the conclusion of the trade agreement and the outline agreement on reducing strategic arms (Start), which should ensure that a formal treaty is ready for signing by the end of the year. These were the main prizes he had sought from the Washington Summit.

Under hostile questioning, Mr Bush was compelled to defend the trade agreement - which had been in doubt until the very last moment - as being in the best interests of the United States. He emphasized, however, that it would not be submitted to Congress until a new Soviet emigration law was in place. This was the original condition set at the Malta Summit. He parried all suggestions that the trade agreement had ever been linked in any way with Moscow's treatment of Lithuania.

The US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, later admitted on a US television news programme that the agreement would be difficult to present to the American public and to get through Con-

gress.

A further hitch became apparent when Mr Gorbachev indicated that, without specific guarantees from Israel on settlement policy, Moscow might decide to stop issuing exit visas to Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel. The Soviet Union has come under pressure from Arab leaders who claim that Soviet Jews are being resettled in Israeli-occupied Arab territory.

Despite earlier statements by spokesmen for both sides that the gap between the super powers on the military alignment of a united Germany had been narrowed, Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev said that progress had been made only in their understanding of each other's position. "I've no suspicions about his position and

Continued on page 20, col 3

New face, page 10

## Speed blamed as 11 die in crash

By PHILIP JACOBSON AND TOM GILES

FRENCH accident investigators made it clear last night that they believed excessive speed contributed directly to the coach crash in which 11 British holidaymakers died and at least 60 more were injured, 18 seriously.

Some survivors were trapped for up to five hours in the wreckage of the British-registered coach and unconfirmed reports said children were among the dead. French police said there was little doubt that a burst front tyre caused the double-decked vehicle to swerve violently off the A6 motorway near Joigny, about 90 miles south-east of Paris.

The coach, which was carrying 76 people mostly from the West Midlands and was returning from Spain, slid for several hundred yards on one side strewn suitcases, and personal belongings along the road until it came to rest in a wheat field.

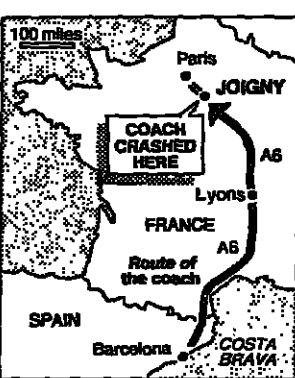
Police said 29 of those on board came from Telford, 11 from West Bromwich, 10 from Walsall, eight from Wolverhampton, six from Birmingham, three from Hanley, in Staffordshire, and three from Liverpool.

Miss Samantha Howes, aged 17, of Wordsley, Dudley, who was travelling in the coach with her boyfriend, said: "All of a sudden there was a big bang. The coach veered off the motorway and started to keel over. It was chaos. Everyone was running around screaming, crying. It was awful."

The bodies of the victims, covered in white sheets, lined the roadside as rescue workers used cranes and other heavy equipment to lift the smashed bus in a four-hour operation. Some bodies were so badly disfigured that identification was difficult.

Mr George Sarre, junior Transport Minister, who went to the scene immediately, said: "Continued on page 20, col 6

Autortoute toll, page 3



### INSIDE

## IRA barbaric, says Thatcher

Mrs Thatcher, speaking on the BBC World Service yesterday, branded recent IRA attacks on mainland Britain and Europe as the work of "barbaric" criminals. She said the IRA was intent on destroying democracy and replacing it with "the rule of the gun".

Detectives hunting the men who shot three soldiers at Lichfield on Friday voiced disappointment at public response to appeals for more information. Page 20

## Jail complaint

The governor of Wakefield prison, Britain's biggest high-security jail, yesterday accused his superiors of failing to carry out staffing agreements. Therapy courses had been hit by a lack of prison officers. Page 3

## Havel warning

President Havel of Czechoslovakia said tough action would be taken against terrorists after a bomb injured 18 people in Prague's Old Town Square. Former secret policemen were blamed. Page 9

## B&C failure

Administrators were appointed last night to run British & Commonwealth, the financial services group, signalling the final failure of rescue attempts after B&C lost £237 million on a computer leasing acquisition. Page 21

## Jobs hope

Fears of rising unemployment may be misplaced, says a new survey by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, which shows more firms will recruit staff than lay them off. Page 21

## Yachting death

One yachtsman died, a dozen were injured, and scores needed rescue when 1,541 boats with 7,000 crew, racing round the Isle of Wight, ran into rough seas. Pages 31-36

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## New life for old Mercedes at end of green road

By KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Germans, ever eye-fut of efficiency, are leading the way towards the environmentalists' dream - a car which can be totally recycled when it reaches the end of its life.

Instead of a journey to the scrapheap Mercedes envisages taking the redundant car and using almost every bit to produce a gleaming new vehicle. The driver of an expensive new limousine might expect his car to be totally new, but it could be made up of hundreds of pieces of scrap, including a glove compartment made up of waste newspaper.

As environmental concerns grow throughout Europe, Mercedes-Benz is among powerful West German car manufacturers launching a huge campaign to make their cars recyclable.

In doing so they are developing technology that may well spread to millions of family cars.

Mercedes is warning its dozens of component suppliers that they must develop recyclable products or risk losing business with the Stuttgart-based manufacturer. BMW and Volkswagen-Audi are also investigating ways to encourage owners to bring cars back at the end of their working lives so that they can be stripped and re-used.

There are about 600 different materials in a car, and engineers say that even if they cannot go back into the car manufacturing process, they could go to other industries for re-use. Almost all the steel, which is about three-quarters of a car's content, can be used again and engineers now say it may make sense to keep some components and refit them to the next

generation of models where the technology will remain the same.

Anti-lock brakes, for example, could be one complex component which might turn up again in a new car. Mercedes is already collecting accident-damaged plastic bumpers from dealers and, where not repairable, grinding them down to be processed into other components.

Professor Guntram Huber, the company's head of engineering, said: "We want to ease the strain of the car on the environment. We have requested our suppliers that they be capable of using recycled material. That is a yardstick for us whether we will continue to use them in the future."

Virtually no part of the car is being left untouched by engineers, who are intent on taking in an old Mercedes and putting it through a Phoenix-like

process so that much of it emerges again. Even used engine oil is going back to refineries for re-processing to be put back into the car and brake fluid can be turned into solvents.

The catalytic converter, the component relatively new to cars in Britain which soaks up toxic exhaust gases, is a prime candidate for attention. It contains precious metals, platinum and rhodium, which are completely recoverable.

Plastics and glass are the most difficult products to recycle, but with Mercedes turning up the pressure on suppliers, ways could be found soon in response to the "green" wave of concern.

Pilot processes involve recycling protective plastic side panels into components such as floor matting, wheel arch stone protectors or under-

## Councils' case for poll tax not co-ordinated

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE largest joint legal effort by local authorities over the community charge begins this week as the Government continues to review the initial operation of the charge.

The judicial review hearing on community charge capping, however, threatens to cause further problems as the case prepared by 19 local authorities has not been fully coordinated.

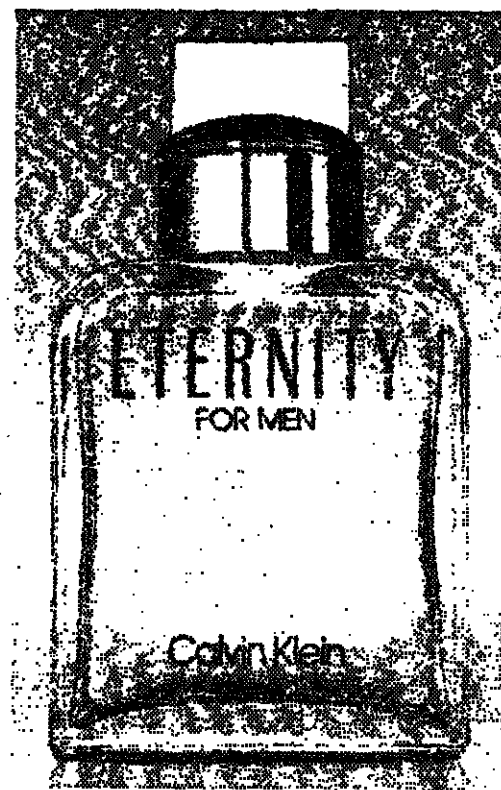
Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, is seeking £3 billion

from the Treasury to enable local authority spending targets to be raised to more realistic levels. Mr Patten will announce the decisions of the Cabinet Committee reviewing the community charge next month.

The Government is expected to rule out big changes to the charge or the principle that everyone should pay something towards paying for local authority services.

Court circus fear, page 6

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## Break-up of the SDP

## Decade of hope ends in humiliation

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOR a party that thrived on the razzmatazz of by-elections, it was perhaps poetic justice that humiliation in one should have prompted the Social Democratic Party leadership to decide the party was over.

When the SDP received fewer than half the votes cast for the Monster Raving Loony (Cavern Rock) Party in last month's Boodle by-election, its three MPs recognized it risked losing what little credibility remained after the rancorous dispute over the merger with the Liberals. The complete turnaround in its fortunes was the more starkly brought home when it was remembered that in neighbouring Crosby, the SDP secured one of its greatest victories when Mrs Shirley Williams overturned a Conservative majority of 19,272 to win the seat on a 25 per cent swing from the Tories.

All that was in the heady days of November 1981 when Mrs Williams became the first directly elected SDP MP and in her moment of triumph declared it as "the beginning of a great movement in history".

The party had emerged from the political and intellectual ferment in Labour and socialism arising from the failures of the Wilson and Callaghan governments in the late seventies and Labour's hunch to the left in the aftermath of defeat in 1979. The SDP's birth had been signalled by Mr Roy Jenkins (now Lord Jenkins of Hillhead) as he came to the end of a period as President of the European Commission, but even then he predicted that the likelihood of any new venture was failure. "The experimental plane may well finish up a few fields from the end of the runway," he said.

When in early 1981 Labour changed the system for electing its leader from being a prerogative of the parliamentary party to an electoral college involving MPs, unions and constituency parties, a prototype for the party was born in the form of the Council for Social Democracy. It was only a matter of time before the so-called Gang of Four — Mr Jenkins, Mrs Williams, Dr David Owen and Mr William Rodgers — left Labour, and in March the SDP was launched.

Aiming to break the mould of British politics by smashing the two-party system, it was to be a left-of-centre party, financed from neither big business nor the unions, and committed to one member, one vote for decision making.

proportional representation, and membership of Nato and the EC. Within months more Labour MPs defected to the party and membership soared to 65,000 within a year, its ranks being swelled by disillusioned Labour supporters and "political virgins" who had never before belonged to a party. Only one Conservative MP joined.

There was early success. At the Warrington by-election in July 1981, Mr Jenkins came within 1,759 of overturning a Labour majority of 10,274. In November of that year, Mrs Williams won Crosby and the SDP-Liberal alliance was at more than 50 per cent in the opinion polls.

As Lord Prior, formerly Mr James Prior, remembered: "It looked as if we had a sensible party, slightly left of centre, taking the place of the Labour Party, which would be very strong competition for the Conservatives." But by the time Mr Jenkins won Glasgow Hillhead in 1982, some of the novelty had gone, amid argument with the Liberals over the division of seats for the next general election. The new politics began to look like the old, with clashing egos, backbiting and bitter disputes.

Even so, the Alliance took 26 per cent of the vote to Labour's 28 per cent in the 1983 general election. The Conservatives won a huge victory in the wake of the Falklands campaign, reinforcing claims that the SDP had helped the Conservatives by splitting the opposition vote. The SDP had failed to break the mould, its number of MPs had been reduced from 29 to six, with Mrs Williams and Mr Rodgers losing their seats.

Most importantly, the catastrophic defeat for Labour forced its new leadership under Mr Neil Kinnock to begin the task of restoring the party's credibility and electability. Mr Jenkins proclaimed in 1983: "In this decade we will make the genuine breakthrough", but it soon became apparent that Mr Kinnock was intent on preventing any such breakthrough.

The SDP held no power. Dr Owen took over from Mr Jenkins as leader. Membership began to decline, as the party's early recruits found they did not have the stamina and commitment to build a party, and regional offices closed.

Argument will continue over whether the SDP and Liberal should have merged in the wake of the 1983 election and whether without the rise of the party, Labour would have reformed. Mr David



Salad days: Mr Rodgers, Lord Jenkins, Mrs Williams and Dr Owen launching the SDP in London in 1981

## Right-wing Cabinet careers behind the Labour gang of four

THE gang of four, all right-wingers in past Labour cabinets, gave political clout and charisma to the Social Democratic Party (Richard Ford writes).

Mr Roy Jenkins, a Chancellor and Home Secretary in the Wilson and Callaghan governments, brought with him an international reputation gained as President of the European Commission. After almost winning Warrington for the SDP in 1981, he went on to win Glasgow Hillhead at a by-election in 1982 and held the seat until he was defeated in the 1987 General Election.

He was then created a life peer, taking the title Lord Jenkins of Hillhead in 1987, and is now leader of the Social and Liberal Democrat peers in

Marquand, a senior figure in the Liberal Democrats, said: "I don't think the Labour Party would have suffered anything like such a catastrophic defeat as it did in 1983 and as a result it would have made it more difficult for Mr Kinnock to force the party to face reality and come to terms with the modern world. The Labour Party needed to be really desperately, badly defeated before it could pull

the House of Lords, having joined the merged party. He was elected Chancellor of Oxford University in 1987, and has been president of the Royal Society of Literature since 1988.

Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science and Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Affairs in the Labour governments of the seventies, won Crosby for the SDP in a 1981 by-election but failed to hold

it at the 1983 General Election. She stood as an SDP-Liberal Alliance candidate at Cambridge in 1987, but lost to the sitting Conservative MP. She married an American academic in 1987 and spends much time in the United States where she works, but is expected to take an active role in the Liberal Democrat general election campaign.

Mr William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport in the late seventies, lost his seat

when he contested Stockton North for the SDP in the 1983 General Election. He had been Labour MP for Stockton on Tees from 1962 to 1974, and then of Stockton until his defeat. He contested Milton Keynes for the SDP-Liberal Alliance in 1987, but lost. He has been director-general of the Royal Institute of British Architects since 1987.

Dr David Owen, SDP MP for Plymouth Devonport and the party leader since 1983, was Foreign Secretary from 1977 until 1979. He had been tipped as a future Labour leader. Before moving to the Foreign Office, he had been Minister for Health and was subsequently opposition spokesman on energy. In 1972 he resigned as opposition

one with the defeat of Mr Jenkins at Hillhead. The Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, urged merger. The idea was supported by the three other members of the Gang of Four, but Dr Owen led a section of the SDP that refused to merge.

Although assured of financial support from Mr David Sainsbury, a director of the supermarket group J. Sainsbury, the SDP declared

in May last year that it was no longer a national party. Yesterday's meeting signalled what many had admitted privately a long time ago that the SDP's bid to "break the mould" had ended after less than a decade of hope and despair. In spite of all the hype, Labour's roots in British society proved much deeper and more resilient.

William Rodgers, page 10  
Leading article, page 11

## Peers say war crimes Bill could be scrapped if Lords rejects it

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

SENIOR peers believe the Government will abandon the war crimes legislation if the House of Lords throws it out at the end of today's debate.

If the upper house votes by a clear majority to kill the War Crimes Bill in the early hours of tomorrow morning as expected, the peers regard it as "highly unlikely" that the Cabinet will trigger powers under the 1911/1949 Parliament Acts to force it through a reluctant House of Lords next summer. They are braced, however, for cries of outrage, and even insults, from the Prime Minister downwards and particularly from the all-party parliamentary war crimes group.

An aide to a senior government peer said yesterday: "It would be unprecedented to use the Parliament Acts over an issue where both houses had been given a free vote. Usually one would expect a deal to be done — although it is difficult to see how on this issue — or for one House to back down. A lot will depend on how much pressure it is put on the Government from backbench MPs during the next few months."

If the Parliament Acts are used the legislation would receive Royal Assent automatically in 12 months. While leading Conservatives in the Commons are complaining about the role, composition and powers of the House of Lords because of the rebellion, peers point out that Mrs Thatcher has not addressed the issue of constitutional reform during her 11-year tenure.

Speculation that the Government would have no hesitation in using the Parliament Acts is regarded by leading Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat peers as being "threats" to scare off potential rebels.

Earl Ferrers, the Lords Home Office Minister, will argue strongly for the Bill today but has told colleagues that, as it is a free vote, he is not prepared to adopt "scare tactics" nor talk of constitutional conflict to win votes. He will open the debate at 3pm and close it at an estimated 13 hours later before the crucial second reading vote.

The government and Labour front benches have been told they may abstain but not vote against the Bill. Lord Tony Pandy, the for-

mer Speaker, is to lead the rear-guard action in favour of the Bill, while Lord Shawcross, who was a Labour attorney general, and Lord Hailsham, who both played a crucial role in the post-war governments' handling of the war crimes issue, will oppose.

Although 68 peers are down to speak, two influential opponents, Lord Home of the Hirsel and Lord Whitelaw, have not added their names.

The Speaker's list of legal heavyweights; historians; leading Jews including the chief rabbi Lord Jakobovits; peers who fled Nazi Germany and Eastern Europe; and a host of ex-cabinet ministers will make for a vastly different debate than in the Commons.

Leading article, page 11

## Pressure to stop 'beef war'

THE European Commission will come under pressure this week to intervene to prevent a damaging trade war that could threaten the run-up to the Single European Market, due to come into force at the end of 1992 (John Young writes).

The ban imposed by France and West Germany on imports of British beef, ostensibly due to fears about bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the so-called "mad cow disease", is now seen as inspired by protectionist lobbying by farmers worried about a collapse in the market caused by falling demand and a flood of imports from Eastern Europe.

The Commission has given the France and West Germany a deadline of 6pm today to lift the ban, failing which it will begin legal action in the European Court. Today is a public holiday in France, and the government has indicated that it will not be considering the matter before tomorrow. On Wednesday the EC scientific veterinary committee is to meet in Brussels to discuss the BSE threat.

## Cliff rescue

A man aged 28 who spent three days at the bottom of 200ft cliffs near Torquay was rescued last night after being seen by a man walking a dog. The injured man, who has not been named, was taken by helicopter to Torbay Hospital. He is believed to have fallen while climbing.

## Ascot cups raid

Four Ascot Gold Cups were among articles stolen in a raid early yesterday by three men on the home of Major Victor McCalmont, a racehorse owner and trainer, at Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, in the Irish Republic. Among them was the 1888 Ascot Cup valued at £70,000.

## Crossword area final

By JOHN GRANT  
CROSSWORD EDITOR

The London A final of The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship at the London Hilton was won on Saturday by Mr Brian Sylvester, aged 57, a stamp dealer from Maidenhead, Berkshire, who completed the four puzzles in an average time of 10 1/4 minutes each.

Mr Tony Sever, aged 45, a computer systems consultant from Ealing, west London, was second, half a minute behind. Mr Gordon Hobbs, 41, a solicitor from Woodford Green, London, was third; and Mr D E Morris, 61, a retired meteorological officer from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, fourth. All go forward to the national final in London on Saturday, September 8.

## CORRECTION

Mr Ian Rushton was described in an article on arts funding (June 1) as group chief executive of the Royal Shakespeare Company. He is group chief executive of Royal Insurance, sponsors of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

He said some charities are believed to have flouted the law and taken "golden hellos or golden handoffs" from relatives in return for a "nod and a wink" arrangement that the family dependant would then be looked after by the charity. "It is not satisfactory to law-abiding charities that this should happen."

The Charity Commission has agreed to issue a clarification of the "bargain bounty" rule, which should make it possible for gifts to be left in the form of a contract without the charitable status of a charity being jeopardized.

from The Mouth of The Lour.



## PRECOCIOUS TEN-YEAR-OLDS.

To THE HIGHLY refined sensibilities of the Aberlour buff, the thunderous chords and cataclysmic cadences of Beethoven merely serve as evidence for the poor wretch's premature deafness....

The flashy virtuoso vileness of Liszt, needless to say, is accounted utterly unlistenable.

The sticky sentimentality of Edwardian Elgar, too, leaves a veritable sugar lump in the throat.

Bartok's String quartets, meanwhile, remind one of nothing so much as the mass twanging of trouser braces in some large gentleman's outfitters at sale time.

Did you know, by the by, that if you were to keep half a dozen chimpanzees cooped up in a room for half an hour they'd cook up the complete works of Stockhausen?

While Stravinsky's 'Fire Bird', like the curate's egg, would have been better left unatched.

Schubert is meritorious... Schumann merely meretricious, Rossini a thieving magpie indeed.

Handel is bliss. Bliss rather less so. Bach is near the front, Vaughan Williams near the back, back.

And, please note, Aberlour Single Malt Whisky responds especially well to soothing music as our chief brewer, Kenny, will testify. For it is he who serenades the casks with mournful bagpipe airs on his nocturnal perambulations around the cavernous Aberlour cellars.

But, ultimately, mellifluous Mozart is the aural delight which best complements the oral pleasures of Aberlour.

For the two display an elegance, a delicacy and a flow which none in their field (in the former's case, certainly not Field) have found possible to emulate.

While both, of course, can claim to have attained full flowering by the tender age of ten.

ABERLOUR  
10 YEARS OLD  
SINGLE SPEYSIDE MALT

## Survivors 'late for their own funeral'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THEY wanted a decent burial for the old party — but the corpse refused to lie still. From the moment members of the national committee started arriving for yesterday's obsequies, it was obvious that the family squabbling which has bedevilled recent centre-party politics had pursued the SDP to the end.

They had chosen an impressive enough venue to lay it to rest. The SDP always had style. In March 1981 they picked the lavish Connaught Rooms to launch the red, white and blue of the third force. Yesterday it was the splendour of the St James's Court Hotel, in Buckingham Gate, not far from the Palace, where the committee gathered in the dimly-lit Board Room 1.

A member of the party's finance and general purposes committee explained the choice of location: "It is convenient for the members. It is close to the headquarters (12 Caxton House round the corner in the ironically named Alliance House) and we still have enough money for this."

The problem for the television crews and press people outside the hotel was

one of identification. The heady days of the instantly recognizable Roy, Shirley and Bill long gone, anonymous members of the committee were being accused constantly yesterday of being Mr John Martin, the millionaire businessman and committee member who had already spent most of the morning accusing Dr Owen of dumping the party for his own convenience.

"I am adamantly not John Martin," Mr Chris Clarke, chairman of the finance committee, said as he told the gathering that he was anxious to hear the views of the MPs and peers. Tourists staying at the hotel were surprised to find themselves being asked for their views on the party's future.

Where were the gang of three (the three MPs, Dr Owen, John Cartwright and Mrs Rosie Barnes)? "Late for their own funeral," someone observed.

It was obvious that the leadership's hopes of a dignified end were ruined by yesterday's newspapers. A decision that winding up was the only way forward had apparently been taken during last week by MPs, peers and the party's

trustees. They had intended to explain it during yesterday's meeting. Unfortunately for them, or maybe intentionally, it reached the newspapers first.

Some of those in the know agreed that it was indeed a sad day. Others displayed the relief often shown at funerals for the departure of someone who had suffered a lot of pain.

The reaction of others was one of outraged fury that they had been kept in the dark. They felt they were being bounced. Said one: "Sad? We don't know what to be sad about. We only know what we have read this morning."

They vowed to fight on, with or without Dr Owen.

A forlorn hope? It seemed so. Out of the London gloom appeared a face familiar to some from 1981. Mr Mike Thomas, the former Labour MP and ever the blunt realist, is one of the few remaining original members of the committee.

He gave his verdict: "The future for the party is very limited."

How limited? "It is unlikely it will survive today," he said.

## IRA hit-and-run attacks foreseen

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MILITARY commanders had been warned some time ago to expect the IRA to begin a series of hit-and-run shooting attacks on individual servicemen in this country, and personal security precautions had been drawn up, according to sources yesterday.

After the shooting of three young Army recruits at Lichfield railway station on Friday the list of precautions to be adopted by all servicemen will be circulated again this week by district commanding officers.

The list includes advice:

- To avoid standing around in groups at bus stops and railway stations with Army kitbags.
- Never to wear T-shirts with regimental badges outside their barracks.
- To avoid talking about the Army when in public places.

The question of haircuts has been considered in the past but an edict to swap the regimental "short back and sides" for a less conspicuous style has always been ruled out. "These days short haircuts are in fashion anyway so it is unlikely to have a very marked effect," a Ministry of Defence source said.

The shooting incidents on the

Continent made it seem highly likely that the IRA would try similar attacks in Britain.

Sources yesterday dismissed the reported remark by one of the gunmen involved in the killing of Major Michael Dillon-Lee in Dortmund last Friday that it had been "easy". "In fact they very nearly got caught," one source said. "This sort of attack has a high element of risk involved because there is a possibility of identification."

British military intelligence and West German anti-terrorist officers fear that the IRA has ordered its professional gunmen on mainland Europe to kill soldiers regularly and frequently in a ruthless attempt to force the Army out of Northern Ireland (Ian Murray writes from Bonn).

All military personnel and their families have been warned to take maximum precautions especially when travelling by car at night. After the killing of Major Dillon-Lee outside his home on Saturday morning, police are worried that the gunmen are now so confident that they are ready to mount a series of murderous attacks on "soft

targets". The fact that the killers left their murder weapon in their abandoned getaway car indicates that they have a plentiful supply of guns.

As the police began the search for clues they were able to draw some comfort from the fact that more intensive patrolling of civilian areas where British troops live almost succeeded in catching the murderers.

The new security arrangements were started last September after gunmen shot and killed Mrs Heidi Hazzell, the wife of a British sergeant, as she parked her car near a married quarters block in Unna, just outside Dortmund.

The IRA in mainland Europe now seem to be concentrating on "hit and run" tactics, with gunmen trying to minimize the risk of killing non-military personnel and arousing adverse publicity worldwide.

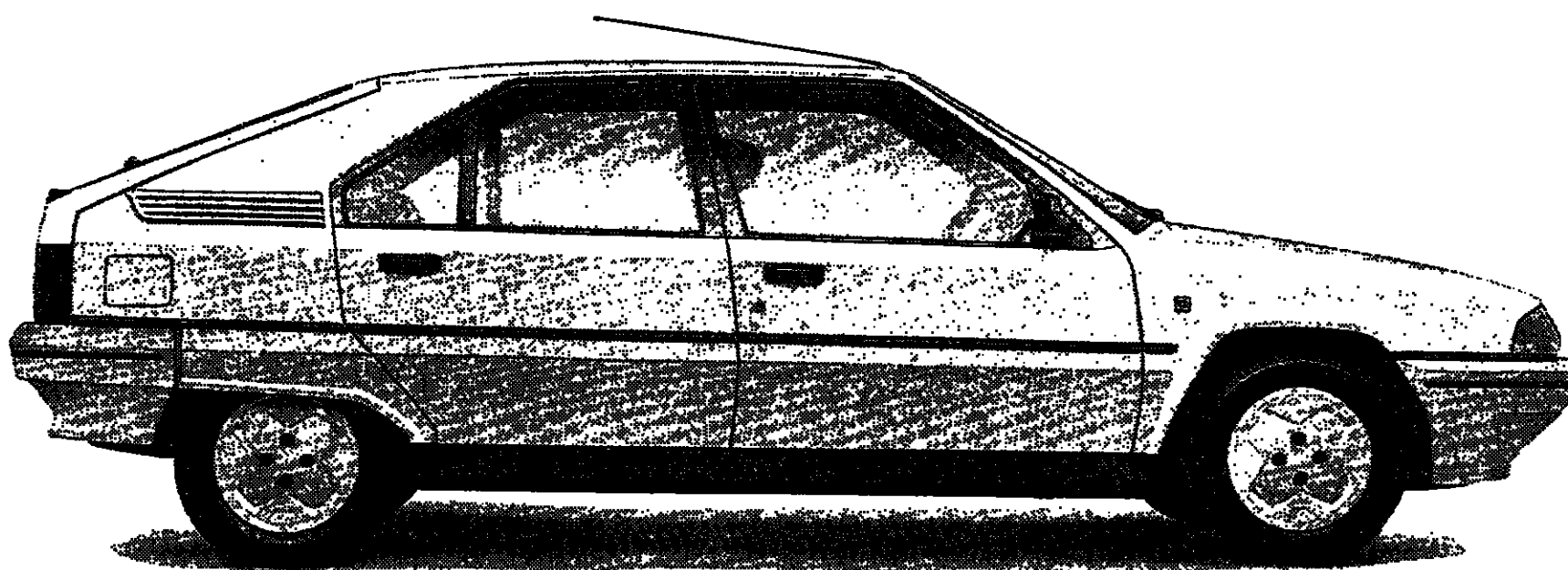
Civilian guards, hired and trained by the Army, have thwarted the two latest attempts to blow up barracks and security consciousness by personnel and their families has led to the discovery of all car bombs since last July.

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# Green taxes on agenda for Cabinet ministers

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A SERIES of confidential studies on recycling policy, seen by *The Times*, show that the Government is now addressing directly the widely discussed subject of environmental taxes.

A range of tax penalties and incentives to encourage recycling should be considered in the forthcoming White Paper on the environment, a government advisory group says. It is recommending investigation of taxes on items that are difficult to dispose of, such as batteries, and of allowances such as zero-rating of VAT on products made with recycled materials or the rebating to recycling groups of their costs.

The recommendations are contained in a series of detailed reports from the joint recycling strategy forum set up by the Department of the Environment and the Department of Trade and Industry, which is considering how to reach the target set last year by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, of 50 per cent of Britain's re-

cyclable waste being recycled by 2000.

The reports, which have not been published, have been passed to *The Times* by Friends of the Earth, the environmental pressure group, which is concerned that the recommendations will be watered down or eliminated by the time the White Paper is written.

Much of the significance of the White Paper, which is to be published in the autumn and which is to include recycling in its comprehensive review of environmental policy, will centre on how far the Government, and the Treasury in particular, accepts that green thinking ought to influence economic policy-making and that "pollution taxes" ought to be used to improve the environment.

The recommendations of the recycling forum, consisting of sub-groups made up of industry and local authority representatives, mean that the question will be directly addressed by the Cabinet committee on the environment, chaired by Mrs Thatcher, which has the final word on what the White Paper should contain.

The forum's economics sub-group, considering waste-handling, suggests "a deposit/refund scheme for particular products".

The group says: "Further studies of the scope for using deposit/refund schemes in the UK are warranted - batteries are a possibility. A different approach would be to impose a tax on products which cause later problems for disposal."

Collection costs should be refunded to voluntary bodies, such as those saving paper or cans, the group believes, saying: "Waste collection authorities should have a duty to offer credits to voluntary bodies who could demonstrate that they were extracting a specified weight or volume of waste from the mixed waste stream."

The plastics sub-group, citing lower tax on unleaded petrol, says: "Financial support at the demand end is needed to make recycled products more attractive."

"It might be appropriate to zero-rate, for VAT purposes, products made from recycled material."

Favourable tax allowances for the capital costs of recycling equipment, such as anaerobic digestion plants are recommended by the composting sub-group, while the textile sub-group recommends that public purchasing policies be changed to favour directly recycled materials.

Ms Peni Walker, recycling campaigner for Friends of the Earth, told *The Times*: "We want the public to know what the Government's own advisers are recommending in case it is different from what the White Paper eventually contains."

"The evidence in these reports would turn the Government's rhetoric into action, but they have shown themselves singularly unwilling to make that leap so far."

"The Treasury must not be allowed to stamp on these measures, which are crucial to getting recycling and waste reduction moving in this country."

## Thatcher rules out 'hot air accords'

By OUR ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister yesterday defended the Government's target for controlling emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the principal gas causing the greenhouse effect, a target that is likely to be publicly attacked as insufficient by a number of other European countries later this week.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher resolutely rebuffed the suggestion that the target, stabilizing British CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at present levels by 2005, was "too little, too late", saying that those who criticized "have just got to come down from this ivory tower."

She said during a phone-in for the BBC World Service: "They have just got to be realistic about this." She added: "We do not make agreements on hot air; they are on solid science, and what is reasonable, and what is practicable for our people."

Her view will not be shared by the environment ministers from a number of European Community countries who, at a meeting in Luxembourg on Thursday, are likely to exhort Britain for not joining them in aiming to stabilize CO<sub>2</sub> levels five years earlier, by the year 2000.

Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environ-

ment, who will be defending Britain's position, is likely to face a barrage of criticism as fierce as that he received over Britain's marine pollution record at the North Sea Conference in The Hague in March.

Mrs Thatcher came under domestic fire over the 2005 date yesterday when the environmental pressure group Friends of the Earth called on the Prime Minister to turn down a United Nations environment award she will be given tomorrow for her advocacy of action to control greenhouse gases.

Mr David Gee, director of Friends of the Earth, said that to give the Prime Minister the United Nations "Global 500" award was "laughably naive in the face of the widespread condemnation of the Government's policy on CO<sub>2</sub>".

The Government's CO<sub>2</sub> target was announced on May 25, on the same day that the scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a warning that the threat from global warming was real.

The panel said that if international economies continued "business as usual", global mean temperatures were likely to increase by a full degree centigrade by the year 2025.



The three new-born puma cubs which are proving to be the star attractions at the Paradise Park Zoo near Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. Not only is it rare these days for puma triplets to be born, but Kelly, their mother, gave birth on May 4 to three males. Mr Stephen French, the head keeper, said everyone at the zoo was delighted with the cubs, but that "they are extremely hard work to look after and need constant attention". The cubs, which are fed on cat food and tripe among other delights, will eventually grow to a length of 275cm.

## Religious teachers claim Christians are shunned

By DOUGLAS BROOM, EDUCATION REPORTER

TEACHERS with strong Christian beliefs are being driven out of religious education by schools who treat them with "suspicion and even hostility", the Association of Christian Teachers said yesterday.

The group, which represents 3,000 state and independent school teachers, said that, while practising members of other religions were welcomed as teachers of religious education, Christians were shunned. The association blamed the trend towards multi-cultural syllabuses, which sought to give equal weight to different religions but in fact succeeded only in devaluing the spiritual aspects of all faiths. The attempt to cover all world religions in one syllabus could lead to pupils confusing one with another or considering them all to be irrelevant.

In a booklet, *Calling or Compromise?*, written by a panel of members who described themselves as "evangelical Christians", the

association said it was possible for teachers with strong Christian beliefs to teach a multi-faith syllabus. "Religion is a controversial subject and must be handled as such. Christian teachers who are secure in their faith will not be nervous about exploring ideas from a range of faiths with their pupils. Neither pupils nor teachers should be expected to compromise their personal beliefs."

The booklet went on to say that, in the 1970s, many Christians had felt, guilty about their faith, and that the results could be seen in schools today.

"Teachers who are positive and observant Muslims, Sikhs or Hindus have sometimes been welcomed as valuable resources in multi-cultural education, whereas Christians with similar attitudes and commitments have been treated with suspicion and even hostility."

The Education Reform Act, which requires school worship

to be of "a broadly Christian character", offered little support. Syllabuses were required only to "reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain."

Within that framework, local authorities are free to implement agreed syllabuses approved by their local standing advisory committees on religious education, on which all faiths were represented.

*Calling or Compromise?* (Association of Christian Teachers, 2 Romeland Hill, St Albans, Herts AL3 4ET. £1.50 inc p&ps)

● A Scottish teacher training college is to offer Britain's first masters degree in equality and discrimination, focusing on "issues of class, race and gender", from October. The course, at Jordanhill College, Glasgow, will lead either to a diploma or to a master of science degree.

## Ministers 'creating school confusion'

MINISTERS were accused yesterday of creating "confusion and uncertainty" over the National Curriculum through concessions that they claim are designed to help teachers (Douglas Broom writes).

Mr Derek Fatchett, a Labour spokesman on education, said that teachers and parents still had no clear idea of the final form of the new curriculum, and he accused ministers of being equally in the dark.

The Opposition will force a debate in the Commons tomorrow when the Government tables the formal order setting out programmes of study and assessment for Technology, one of seven foundation subjects in the new curriculum.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has already announced that there will be no formal testing of pupils in foundation subjects at seven or 11. Originally, pupils were to have taken national tests in all 10 National Curriculum subjects at seven, 11, 14 and 16. Now only the three core

subjects, English, Maths and Science, will be externally assessed at seven and 11.

Announcing the concessions last month, Mr MacGregor said that they were designed to ease the burden of education reforms on teachers. Mrs Thatcher also voiced concern that schools were being overburdened.

However, Mr Fatchett said: "The Prime Minister's comment about the National Curriculum and subsequent statements by ministers have only served to add confusion and uncertainty about the Government's intentions."

"As teachers strive to implement the National Curriculum, ministers seem increasingly uncertain about its future shape and about the demands it will make on teachers and children alike."

In Technology, there were doubts about the ability of schools to teach the subject at all because of a shortage of qualified staff for the subject, estimated by the Government to have a 6,000 shortfall by 1995, he said.

## Trust saves Chesterton treasures

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A TREASURE trove of work by G.K. Chesterton has been saved for the nation thanks to George Bernard Shaw, the writer's old friend. A grant from the Shaw Trust, created from royalty and copyright proceeds, enabled the British Library to pay the asking price, believed to be £90,000, for the archive. It had been in the attic of Miss Dorothy Collins, Chesterton's former secretary, for over 50 years.

Although it is not being disclosed how much the trust has contributed, a spokesman for the British Library said: "There is no doubt that without the trust, which is administered by the British Museum, we could not have acquired this fantastic treasure."

Chesterton was one of the most colourful, provocative and prolific writers of the first three decades of this century, and the 30,000 documents, including unpublished poems, plays, short stories, sketches and correspondence with such contemporaries as H.G. Wells and Shaw, might add a new dimension to studies of the writer. The collection, now in the library's department of Western manuscripts, can for the first time be studied as a whole by scholars.

Chesterton died in 1936 without heirs and left the archive in the care of Miss Collins, who died in 1988 aged 93. She asked for it to be offered to the British Library with the proceeds to go to the Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association and the Royal Literary Fund.



G.K. Chesterton: Fresh light on a prolific writer

## Yachtsman killed during race

A yachtsman was killed when the vessel's boom swung across the deck and struck him on the head off the Isle of Wight during the round-the-island race. He was Mr Michael Ford, aged 53, a dental surgeon, of Merrow, near Guildford, Surrey.

His wife, Sheila, and their son, Andrew, aged 25, had to sail for three hours with the body after lifeboat crews decided conditions were too dangerous to transfer him.

Race report, page 36

## Lockerbie film

The Lockerbie air disaster is to be made into a film for television. The co-ordinator of the air disaster appeal fund, Mr Gordon Smith, said: "It will rake up our past when our lives are beginning to return to normal."

## Unions merge

Members of the 16,000-strong Health Visitors' Association have voted 7,797 to 341 to merge with the technical services union MSF.

## Police college

Police will today unveil plans for a multi-million pound training college at Solihull, West Midlands, which will include a lake for underwater search training and a firearms and public order site.

## Carrier bag baby

A new-born boy has been found in a carrier bag in Bournemouth. He is making good progress at the Royal Victoria hospital, where nurses have named him John Andrew.

## Controls lifted

Restrictions imposed after the Chernobyl radiation disaster still apply to 300,000 sheep in Wales but slaughter controls are to be lifted from today on sheep moved to "clean pasture" in January.

## Premium Bonds

National Savings Premium Bonds weekly draw £100,000, bond number 14C7 £458,300, winner lives in Devon, £50,000, 20K £194,877 (Oxford), £25,000, 23K 979748 (overseas)

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# Valley that won royal praise fights Patten price on fast growth



Mr Patten: Demands £7.5m budget cut

*A community that won royal acclaim as worthy of emulation everywhere and which Victorians boasted included the richest town in the world is challenging the capping over the poll tax.*  
*Ronald Faux assesses its problems and prospects*

CALDERDALE, praised by the Prince of Wales as a model of community enterprise others would do well to emulate, is to be capped. In the dialect of the valley this might suggest that things are going to improve. When one Calderdale challenge another to "Cap that, lad", it is usually an incitement to go one better.

Not so with the capping proposed by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment. If the appeal to the courts under the Local Government Finance Act by the Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council fails, the borough will have a £7.5 million budget shortfall.

Voluntary organizations supported by the council have been warned by Mr Michael Ellison, the chief executive, that they could find

themselves in a very vulnerable position. Calderdale is the most rural of England's 36 metropolitan districts. Its deep valleys cut into 140 square miles of Pennine moorland. Halifax is the main town and textiles, carpets and machine tools were the main industries until a decade ago when company closures, redundancy and social despair hit hard at what Victorians had regarded as the richest town in the world.

Calderdale was formed in 1974 with the local government reorganization and it was the area's renaissance through the Calderdale Partnership that attracted praise from the Prince. His Business in the Community organization and the Civic Trust played an important part in the renewal of Calderdale's

fortunes, turning it into the fastest growing area within the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

For 10 years until 1989 the council was hung. Last year Labour gained control on the casting vote of the mayor. Labour now has overall control by four votes and the council approved a budget of £132.867 million for 1990-91 which Mr Patten has cut to £125,400,000. At an emergency meeting of voluntary organizations in Halifax town hall there was little doubt where the axe was most likely to fall. The easiest way for the council to make cuts, the meeting was told, would be by severing grants to the voluntary sector, which amount to £1.25 million a year.

The capping exercise would put £1 a week back into the wallets of Calderdale's poll tax payers, who would be charged £245 a head, but the cut in services would be hard on the vulnerable sections of society who received them. Among the targets for savings that Labour

councillors fear will be made would be the sale of four council-run homes for the elderly, the end of a £165,000 grant to the Northern Ballet Company, increases in school meals and adult education charges, and the scrapping of 100 new council jobs including social workers, non-teaching assistants, day care centre organizers and extra primary school teachers.

In a 14-page submission the council says that it has tried since 1974 to rationalize the different levels of services inherited from nine former authorities. In spite of all the improvements and winning a number of national awards for its initiatives, Calderdale remains at the bottom of the Yorkshire and Humberside low pay league.

The council argues that while the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) for inner London increased in one year by 25.7 per cent, Calderdale faced a reduced assessment in real terms. It says that although the council had reversed

the population decline the SSAs have lagged behind and therefore Calderdale is consistently disadvantaged. Because the services provided by the council were labour intensive, achieving the cuts demanded by the Government would equal the loss of 700 full-time jobs, or one in 10 of the council's full-time equivalent workforce.

Calderdale had been accused of spending excessively but the Secretary of State had not explained the council's basis for limiting the budget at £125.4 million. That figure was £1.9 million less than the level that would have avoided capping. Mr John Bradley, leader of the opposition Conservative group, accused the council of spending extravagantly on non-statutory services. "Our budget cuts back on the fringe benefits and perks that councillors seem to enjoy. For example, if you are short of cash you do not support a ballet company or spend nearly half a million pounds on extra staff."



Mr Ellison: Voluntary sector under threat

## Court circus danger over councils' unco-ordinated case

By RAY CLANCY

THIS week's judicial review on community charge capping, expected to last about five days, is in danger of degenerating into "a circus", because the case prepared by the authorities has not been fully coordinated.

On the surface it is the biggest joint legal effort by 19 local authorities across the board challenging what they regard as "unfair" action by the Government. Underneath there are disjointed arguments which will be put before three judges in the High Court by

seven leading counsel tomorrow. Although everyone involved has welcomed the judicial review hearing being brought forward by two weeks that has created serious logistical problems, led to hasty meetings and resulted in less time to prepare cases.

That is borne out by the 20 different grounds of attack on the legality of the decision taken by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, to single out 21 authorities for capping. "The strongest case should have

been put forward to take the lead supported by the others. The mass of argument is unco-ordinated and coming from seven different counsel," the Association of London Authorities said. "It is unfortunate, but the way it is going to be like a circus in court with half a dozen counsel each representing several authorities." The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said it could be "a shambles" and issued a warning that could weaken the case in the eyes of the judges.

However, a solicitor preparing the case for the London borough of Greenwich said there had been as much co-ordination as could be expected. "We are still reviewing the number of counsel who will actually stand up in court. Originally it was to be seven but that might not happen on the day."

He admitted that there was a feeling that Hammersmith and Fulham had jumped the gun at the start of the legal proceedings, which basically left the other authorities to follow on and it would have been better to single out the strongest case to lead the legal challenge.

The main thrust of the argument is that Mr Patten did not use his discretion fairly, that by using the standard spending assessment as the method of capping he acted outside the Local Government Finance Act, 1988.

The councils are challenging Mr Patten's detailed formula for measuring excessive spending. He decided councils had overspent if their standard spending assessments exceeded government figures by at least 12.5 per cent and by at least £75 an adult.

The authorities will argue that under the rates system they knew a year in advance if they were going to be rate-capped and could thus make budgetary adjustments to soften the blow of any cuts.

But in its 75-page affidavit for the case, counsel for Mr Patten says that adequate consultation was made over the criteria within Whitehall and that if councils had been told in advance what the criteria would be that would have encouraged them to spend up to a certain amount to avoid capping.

Some councils, and indeed it is understood some ministers, are beginning to wonder if capping - which will trim £200 million off council budgets - has been worth all the bother and expense.

## Ministers' seats 'are at risk'

FOUR government ministers and 46 Tory MPs in marginal seats risk an embarrassing defeat at the next general election as poll-tax bills in their areas rise with the withdrawal of the safety-net grant, the Labour Party says.

It was just "another half-a-billion-pound headache" for Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, the party's local government spokesman, Mr David Blunkett, said yesterday. "Without a change it is not only Tory parliamentary majorities that will go, but essential local services could be devastated." Some 73 Tory MPs, 50 in marginal seats, represent areas that benefited from the safety net, Labour says. The ministers were Mr Peter Bottomley (Epsom), Mr Colin Moynihan (Leishampton East), Mr David Mellor (Ponemey) and Mr David Trippier (Rossendale and Darwen). "The rules for withdrawing the safety net were not changed, and as a result poll-tax bills in those areas will go up just prior to the general election," Mr Blunkett said.



Standing their ground: Villagers led by Mr Ron Shadbolt, front left, protesting against the brewery's attempt to claim the Crowell green

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE village of Crowell in Oxfordshire, with just 27 houses and 78 adult inhabitants, is preparing to do legal battle with one of Britain's biggest breweries in defence of its village green.

Allied Breweries, part of the Allied-Lyons group, is trying to include the green in the sale of the village public house, the Catherine Wheel, claiming that it can be used as hard-standing for cars and as the pub lawn. The claim is denied by the villagers, who packed the village hall at a meeting

## Villagers unite in defence of green against brewery group

last week and unanimously resolved to contest it.

Mr Ron Shadbolt, chairman of the parish meeting, said yesterday that the village had always had amicable relations with the Aylesbury Brewery Company, which formerly owned the pub.

Three years ago a director of the ABC came and apologized to us because cars from the pub were using the green

to park on," Mr Shadbolt said. "But then the ABC was taken over, and the next thing we knew was that an estate agent's brochure appeared, offering the pub for sale and saying that the green was being sold with it."

When Mr Shadbolt protested, Mr Andrew Murray, a representative of the estate agents, Rafferty Buckland of Aylesbury, was sent to tell him

that the villagers would be sued for costs if the sale of the Catherine Wheel was preceded by claims that the green did not belong to it.

Mr Shadbolt said: "We have always regarded the land in front of the pub as the village green, and we have a resident in his 80s whose parents were licensees of the pub from 1914 to 1922. He is quite clear that the green never belonged to

the pub then. It was used for games of cricket and football, but the pub animals had always to be kept elsewhere."

The brewery claims to have a document from 1895 describing the green as an adjunct to the pub, but the villagers' solicitor, Mr Andrew Cameron, disputes the interpretation.

Mr John Leggett, of the brewery's solicitors, said yesterday: "It is the genuine view of the brewery that title could be claimed, but if that claim is repudiated they would naturally accept it. I am sure that the matter can be resolved in the proper legal and civilized way through solicitors."

## Crash victims still await settlement

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

RELATIVES of the 45 victims of Britain's worst helicopter crash have not received any compensation over three and a half years after the accident, in spite of being offered about £200,000 each by Boeing.

Many of the families, including wives with young children who lost their sole breadwinner when the helicopter carrying oilmen to a North Sea platform crashed into the sea, are living on social security benefits and could face several more years without a cash pay-out while lawyers on both sides of the Atlantic argue

over the next move. The Boeing Vertol 234 LR, a civilian version of the Chinook, operated by British International Helicopters crashed off the Shetlands in November 1986 after "a catastrophic failure" in the forward gearbox.

An accident investigation report said that a modification made to the original ring gear led to a change in performance and the eventual disaster. "With the benefit of hindsight this might have been avoided if more realistic and rigorous testing had been required," the report said. The report was

not published until April last year because of moves by Boeing to have the findings amended. Immediately it became official, Boeing contacted each of the families and offered compensation based on the income and commitments of those killed. They ranged from under £100,000 to as much as £250,000 but were considered too small by the action group representing the families' interests.

The offers were rejected and litigation which had been started in the courts in Philadelphia was considered

to be the best way of achieving what was regarded as adequate compensation for the losses.

Two judges in the State Court have studied the claims but have so far not produced a complete ruling that will allow the actions to be heard in full. Now a judge has asked both sides to come together in an attempt to bridge the gap between the Boeing offers and the amounts sought, which, in general, are between three and four times as high.

The American firm of lawyers which is handling the case there will take a percentage of whatever is awarded - estimated at around 25 per cent - but will waive a fee if they lose or if the settlement is not considerably higher than that so far offered.

Mr David Burnside, an Aberdeen solicitor who is representing the relatives, said: "The company appear to be using delaying tactics in the hope that they will eventually capitulate and take the money now rather than press on for just compensation. But if they think that that will be the outcome of these tactics they have misunderstood the character of those involved."

Boeing strongly denies using delaying tactics. It is determined to fight any actions but agrees that unfortunately it could take many years for a settlement to be reached through the courts.

"We have made a full and fair offer and really regret the fact that our offer has not been accepted," a spokesman said. "We don't want anyone to be living in dire circumstances and believe that the proper venue for such a settlement is in the UK because the accident involved British citizens flying in a British-registered helicopter."

If this is heard in the United States, it could set a very serious precedent for Boeing worldwide. Instead of accepting the money now and getting on with their lives they are pursuing a course of action which could cause them to wait for many years before a resolution," he said.

Two of the victims have settled directly with Boeing.

## Colour and grace in iris show

By ALAN TOOGOOD  
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE British Iris Society's weekend show had an international flavour, with modern varieties from America and Germany vying for attention with the best from Britain.

In the competitive classes of the show, which took place at Wisley Gardens, in Surrey, Dr T. Tamburg, of West Berlin, staged some modern Siberian (*Sibirica*) varieties. They are among the most graceful of irises, with narrow grassy foliage. One of his exhibits included deep violet 'Berlin Ruffles' and white and cream 'Butter and Sugar'. He was awarded the Spender Challenge Trophy.

Mr C. Bartlett, of Cannington, Somerset, has been breeding new colour forms of *Iris foetidissima*, the gladiolus or stinking iris, which is so useful for growing in shade with dry soil. In the class for species he included forms with cream, yellow and bronze, and dark purple and rose-fawn flowers, for which he received the Christie-Miller Challenge Cup.

An American bearded iris was judged best spike (stem of blooms) in show. Named 'Matinata', this very reliable deep velvety purple iris secured the Josephine Romney Townsend Trophy for Mr Jack Grint, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, who specializes in American varieties.

Mrs M. Foster, of Powys, South Wales, scooped the main trophies for bearded irises, gaining the Insole Challenge Cup, the Peckham Cup and, for varieties raised in the United States or Canada, the Ilse Clason Smith Memorial Bowl and American Iris Society Silver Medal.

In the section for exhibitors' own varieties, Mr R. Nichol, of Birmingham, won the Pest Challenge Bowl for a collection of bearded irises, including 'Caroline Penvenon' in shades of mauve. Mr H. Foster, of Crickhowell, Powys, won the Marlene Ahlberg Trophy for beardless varieties.

## R101 crew medals for sale

By JOHN SHAW

THE Albert Medal awarded to Henry Leech, one of only six survivors from the R101 airship disaster in October 1930, is expected to make between £3,000 and £5,000 at Glendinning's, the coins and medal specialist part of Phillips, in London on June 13.

The 777-R hydrogen-filled airship crashed at Beauvais, northern France, and burst into flames with the loss of 48 lives while on a maiden flight to India. The tragedy stopped airship development in Britain.

Mr Leech, from Cardington, Bedfordshire, home of the Royal Airship Works, died in 1967. His medals, including an Air Force medal for gallantry in the First World War, are being sold by a female relative. The auction also includes the decorations of two casualties, Captain Herbert Irwin, AFC, who commanded the airship at the time of the accident (£4,000-£5,000), and Flight Sergeant William Gent, AFM, BEM (£2,500-£3,500).

Among those also killed was Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Branson, director of Civil Aviation, and Lord Thomson of Cardington, Secretary of State for Air, who saw airships as a way of opening up the Empire. This was especially true of the route to India, a catalogue note says. "With his ambition set on becoming a future Viceroy, R101 was the obvious vehicle to further his plans. It was his constant pressure to complete the project in 1929-30 that compounded the mistakes of others and made the tragic finale inevitable."

After the initial impact, Mr Leech, a foreman engineer at Cardington and a member of the crew, tore open the partition walls and crawled out on to the grass virtually unscathed. After hearing the screams of his trapped workmates, he fought his way back inside and pulled one of them out alive. Despite sustaining serious burns he tried to return a second time but was beaten back by the intense heat. He then watched the airship buckle and disintegrate in front of him, Mr



Henry Leech: Gallant crewman after being involved with the Albert Medal

Leech was presented with his Albert Medal by King George V the following year and the lot includes a photograph of him leaving Buckingham Palace after the investiture ceremony. Fine Chinese ceramics and works of art made \$5,650,000 (£3.3 million) at Christie's in New York. The biggest surprise of the day was a large famille rose moon flask which had been estimated at \$200,000-\$250,000 but brought \$825,000 (£491,071) to a Far Eastern dealer. Early pottery also did well, especially Tang Dynasty. A massive straw-glazed camel made \$440,000 (£261,904) (estimate \$280,000-\$350,000), and a Tang horse made \$264,000 (£157,143) (estimate \$150,000-\$200,000). Both went to a Far Eastern institution. The auction was 84 per cent sold by value, 71 per cent by volume.

### HOW CAPPED AUTHORITIES ARE REACTING

Authorities designated by the secretary of state for community charge capping, their set budgets, the budget reduction proposed by capping, and budget proposals as a result of capping

	Budget (£m)	Cut (£m)	Budget proposals
Avon	533.7	26.6	3%-10% cuts
Barnsley	142.0	10.0	26.6m cuts
Basildon	27.9	4.2	Waiting for court case
Brent	249.3	7.6	Cuts under consideration
Bristol	64.2	7.6	Cuts under consideration
Calderdale	132.9	7.5	5% cut in education
Camden	181.4	4.4	Cap accepted, no cuts
Derbyshire	561.6	40.0	Cuts under consideration
Doncaster	190.1	11.6	£16m cuts over 20 months
Greenwich	213.0	11.0	No cuts yet
Hammersmith	167.5	10.7	24m-25m cuts
Haringey	216.5	10.0	Waiting for court case
Hillingdon	151.0	9.3	More private tenders
Islington	189.5	3.7	Cuts under consideration
Lambeth	293.9	8.8	Cuts under consideration
Nth Tyneside	129.7	6.8	No alternative budget yet
Rochdale	152.0	8.0	40% cut in equipment
Rotherham	168.4	7.9	Cuts under consideration
St Helens	126.7	3.8	Cuts warnings issued
Southwark	241.0	14.1	No cuts yet
Wigan	200.6	10.0	28m cuts

\* Not taking part in judicial review



growth



Mr Ellison, voluntary sector under threat



Police detaining a man and a woman on the edge of Tiananmen Square yesterday

# Foreign journalists harassed in tense Tiananmen Square

POLICE detained a man and a woman on the edge of Tiananmen Square yesterday as nervous security services went on full alert for today's anniversary of last year's massacre. Police and troops enclosed the city in a grip of steel, displaying a more obvious and threatening presence than at any time since martial law was lifted.

Outside the Forbidden City, a man of about 50 approached a foreign television crew at about 11 am and unfurled a yellow poster. Bystanders had only seconds to see a few of the words written on it - "To all foreign journalists, we have a new philosophy..." - before uniformed police dragged him into the Forbidden City. As he struggled, he called "rise up", but the crowd looked on impassively. Later, a woman who approached a German television crew was also taken away by police.

Three foreign photographers were pushed roughly by police as they attempted to photograph the closed-off square, and camera crews complained of harassment.

Just before 6 pm, a bag of paper money - the traditional Chinese symbol of mourning - was thrown from a car being driven along the Avenue of Eternal Peace to the north of the square. Police started to chase the car, but gave up to shoo away onlookers. A German journalist who tried to take photographs was detained for 15 minutes and had his film confiscated.

Police and troops were everywhere in the city. In alleys and in parks, troops, many carrying AK-47 rifles, stood by in the scorching heat. Paramilitary police, wearing combat helmets and carrying electric cattle prods, patrolled the streets on foot and on motor cycles. Near the Lama temple in the north-east of the city, witnesses saw 17 army trucks full of troops. At the railway station, all luggage was X-rayed.

Tiananmen Square itself was sealed off and was being used as a car park for VIPs attending a meeting in the Great Hall of the People to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Opium War.

Security agents manned video cameras on the rooftops of buildings around the square and water cannon were parked nearby. Throughout the day soldiers who were camped in the Museum of Revolutionary History emerged for ostentatious riot-control practice.

A few miles to the west of the square, in the area which saw the worst of the bloodshed last year, three police and a dozen members of the workers' militia guarded the statue of a ballet dancer. The statue, riddled with bullet holes, has become an unofficial memorial to the people who died in the area. Last year a black armband and a banner saying "Blood debts will be repaid with blood" were put on the statue. A policeman guarding the statue yesterday said that he and the militia members were there to keep order in the run-up to the Asian Games in September and to preserve the safety of foreigners.

As night fell, security in the square became more aggressive. A group of foreign photographers were surrounded by plain clothes police and attacked. One was kicked in the head when he fell to the ground, and his camera was smashed when a policeman dashed it on to the paving stones. Uniformed police joined in the attack.

One of the photographers said police left them alone when they spotted a Chinese cyclist with a camera. Police chased after the cyclist and attacked him. Troops wearing combat helmets stood by; one soldier carried a tear-gas grenade launcher.

Leading article, page 11



Police restraining the Chinese man who tried to display a protest banner to one of the foreign television crews gathered around Tiananmen Square yesterday

## Thousands march in Hong Kong

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

ABOUT 100,000 people took to the streets here yesterday to commemorate the anniversary of China's bloody crackdown on the democracy movement on June 4 last year. They demanded the release of Chinese political prisoners and called for the downfall of Mr Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister.

In the biggest outpouring of emotion since a million people poured into the streets in the wake of the Tiananmen Square massacre, the crowd converged on the headquarters of the New China News Agency, Peking's de facto embassy in the colony.

Dressed in the mourning colours of black and white, they shouted slogans for democracy and laid wreaths in memory of the students and the hopes of reform crushed by Chinese tanks. The protesters carried a petition naming 22 dissidents still held in Chinese jails and called for the release of thousands of others believed to be detained.

The marchers, led by the liberal activists Mr Martin Lee and Mr Szeto Wah, who have both been branded as subversives by Peking, flew huge banners proclaiming "We will never forget those who died" and "People may die, but the soul of democracy will never be extinguished".

Another poster attacked last week's decision by the US to renege on China's most favoured nation trade status. It read: "Thank you President George Bush. With friends like you, who needs an enemy?"

The turnout surpassed the most optimistic predictions of Mr Szeto and Mr Lee, who expected around 30,000 people. The huge numbers also sent a powerful message to the Hong Kong authorities, who had tried to dampen enthusiasm for pro-democracy demonstrations, apparently in deference to China.

Last week the Government refused permission for an open-air memorial service by Christian groups in a local stadium, forcing the organisers to hold the event indoors. The result was a turnout so large, the service ran to two sittings.

Mr Li Lu, a student who survived the Tiananmen Square massacre told a rally here that the pro-democracy movement in China would rise again (Our Foreign Staff writes). Hundreds took part in the demonstration in Chinatown. A similar demonstration was held in Manchester.

## Mournful air of community cowed into silence at Peking campus

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN PEKING

SECURITY men took no chances at Peking University yesterday, imposing compulsory classes and keeping the students in their lecture rooms for most of the day.

They probably need not have bothered, since no one seemed in the mood for a demonstration on the anniversary of the Tiananmen night. When the students did emerge into the sunshine they strolled among the weeping willows surrounding the mirror-like lakes of the campus. They played cards, lobbied tennis balls and practised gymnastics. A couple of thousand of them turned out to shuffle to the beat of Hong Kong pop music in three dance halls.

All day yesterday nothing visible recalled the tumultuous weekend of 12 months ago, when the college yards resounded with the fervent and the medical wing filled with wounded from the massacre in the city centre, eight miles to the south-east. Anyone prepared to argue their way past the security men into this high seat of Chinese scholarship would, however, soon scent the there was a mournful air of a community cowed into silence. From those students brave enough to confide in a foreigner came the refrain: "We are remembering, but the time is not right to do anything. We have to get on with our lives."

Again and again voices dropped to a hush. "Be careful, there are PSB (Public Security Bureau) everywhere. The guard, allowing us in, warned my Chinese companion: 'Don't cause me any trouble. Someone was taken out yesterday for singing a song he should not have.'"

Sitting in the gloom of his small room, a researcher aged in his late 20s tried to convey the resignation that has swept the student body. "Sure, we demonstrated, but people are beginning to think a little differently now," he said. Memories are fading. People are turning to other things. They want to make money, go into business. The researcher added that the Government had sought to co-opt the best graduates by offering them privileged jobs in the civil service.

In contrast to the party's reward for these most pampered of students, there has been the punishment of compulsory military training and "re-education". In the yard outside the researcher's room a display of photographs extolled the achievements of a hero soldier while a banner calls for attendance at an "academic meeting" to commemorate the Opium War with Britain 150 years ago; the war is the vehicle for patriotic indoctrination this month. In the refectory a poster of Mao has been taped to the wall.

In their revised views about the protests, many believe that they brought China dangerously close to the kind of upheaval which has produced so much misery this century and whose last cycle abated only at the end of the Cultural Revolution in the late 1970s. China has prospered in recent years. "It is not like 1949 and the revolution, where you abandoned everything for a cause," a student said. "People have more to lose and students do not want to throw away their futures." The researcher, who took part in the democracy movement, added: "China is different. People in the West just do not understand that we cannot simply adopt Western democracy."

The alienation of the students and much of the Peking population is no secret to the Government, according to Chinese with contacts in the security services. The leadership just hopes that, by dint of discipline and repetition, the bitterness will eventually subside in the big cities.

Just as it did on the campuses, a forced "normality" prevailed yesterday in the ferociously policed Tiananmen area. Only a few scars of bullets and tank tracks on the Avenue of Heavenly Peace bear witness to the violent night of June 3 last year.

This year the weekend began in festive mood, with the dancing children who packed the square on Friday and Saturday under the banner "Long live the great Communist Party celebrating children's holiday".

Nothing better symbolizes the strained jollity so in conflict with the mood than does the ubiquitous panda, mascot of the Asian Games, whose vacuous smile beams from every shop window and taxi, and even from balloons over Tiananmen Square. "Peking smilingly welcomes visitors," say the banners already going up for the Games in September.

For those in power there was a pointed lesson in the choice of activities organized to ward off the ghosts of Tiananmen yesterday and today. First the remembrance ceremony for the Opium War

## De Klerk poised to lift state of emergency

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's nationwide state of emergency, under which the police have operated with virtually unchecked power for the past four years, is expected to be almost entirely lifted within the next few days, weekend reports here said.

The announcement by the Government will be timed to offset as much as possible the calls for reinforced sanctions and pressure against Pretoria which Mr Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress, is expected to put on during his 13-nation, six-week tour of Europe and America. He is due to leave today.

The state of emergency has been annually renewed since it was first declared on June 11, 1986. President de Klerk lifted some aspects of it last February, including those giving the police and security forces wide powers to search premises, detain suspects and proclaim "no go" unrest areas.

The emergency regulations were identified as among the main obstacles to negotiations at the talks between the Government and the ANC in Cape Town last month.

Mr de Klerk said on his return from Europe a week ago that he would take final advice from his security advisers and that a partial lifting of the emergency regulations was one option he would consider.

It is thought likely that the Government will retain some emergency powers to deal with such troubled areas as Natal, where thousands of people have died in four years of black violence.

Mr Mandela, aged 71, emerged from hospital in Johannesburg on Saturday looking fit and well after what was finally disclosed as a non-malignant cyst on the bladder. He described Mr de Klerk's European tour as "irrelevant to the country" and said that the announcement on Friday of the repeal of the Separate Amenities Act was insignificant. "Whatever Mr de Klerk has said, it is up to now merely notional, and all the pillars of apartheid are still in place."

"The basic issue is whether blacks are going to have the right of self-determination. It is whether the police shootings that are taking place are going to end, whether the right-wing violence threatening the country is going to be suppressed," Mr Mandela admitted, however, that the violence was not entirely one-sided. "There is no doubt that we have a certain amount of indiscipline on the part of the activists," he said.

Mr Mandela will meet Mrs Thatcher, Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, and President Mitterrand of France, as well as President Bush. Mr de Klerk's own meeting with Mr Bush, which had been expected to take place soon after his European tour, has now been postponed until next January.

● VOSLOORUS: Black nationalists yesterday buried Johnny Rantso, aged 24, the victim of an ANC mob, bringing into sharp focus the Mr Mandela's admission that there is indiscipline among some young ANC supporters.

An unemployed member of the black-consciousness Azanian Youth movement, he was hacked to death last Wednesday by some 70 ANC supporters at his home in this black township east of Johannesburg. Michael, his brother, said at the funeral he too had been attacked by the mob but had struggled free to call the police. (AFP)

## Panic as rebels near Monrovia

FROM REUTER IN MONROVIA

WIVES and children of Liberian soldiers fled Monrovia yesterday and residents faced food shortages and rising crime as the city awaited a rebel attack aimed at overthrowing President Doe.

Hundreds of women and children jammed into a small airfield in this seaside capital hoping to find space on board two military transport aircraft and a handful of commercial planes leaving the besieged city.

"I am going to Grand Geddeh County (Doe's home area)," said one woman with four children belonging to the President Doe's Krahn tribe.

The Krahn fear reprisals when the largely Gio and Mano rebels enter the city. Many of the people fleeing were families of President Doe's elite Krahn-dominated troops.

Grand Geddeh is still controlled by the Government in the six-month-old rebellion which has turned into a grisly tribal war marked by atrocities against civilians by both sides.

Rebels led by Mr Charles Taylor, a former official in the Doe Government who fled the country in 1983 to escape fraud charges, have infiltrated a force of up to 3,500 rebels to within 30 miles of the capital, diplomats said.

A US flotilla with 2,000 marines was headed for international waters off the Liberian coast to evacuate about 1,100 remaining Americans and two British warships were in the area.



The Liberian rebel leader, Mr Charles Taylor, poses with a rifle on the march to Monrovia

## Emergency talks on Quebec

OTTAWA - Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, and the country's 10 provincial premiers were meeting last night in a make-or-break attempt to find a way out of the country's constitutional problem (John Best writes).

Mr Mulroney called the session to discover if common ground can be found for a constitutional conference. At stake is the 1987 Meech Lake Accord to bring French-speaking Quebec into the national constitution.

Last night Mr Robert Bourassa, Quebec's premier, was still sticking to his demand that Meech Lake be adopted as it stands, but Mr Gary Filmon, the Premier of Manitoba, and Mr Clyde Wells, Premier of Newfoundland, reiterated the need for change. Opponents object to every province having a veto over changes in the Senate.

## British hikers die in Colorado

NEW YORK - A British man and woman died at the weekend when they were caught by snow and high winds while hiking in Colorado (James Bone writes). They set off from a camp west of Nederland on Friday with another Briton.

The first man became separated from the group, and the woman did not respond when the third member of the party tried to wake her on Saturday. Police have withheld all names until they have notified relatives.

## Border troops rushed to Sind

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

PAKISTAN has withdrawn 25,000 of its troops from the Indian border for immediate deployment in Sind province, where the Government of Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, faces a virtual civil war. The troops will intervene to end the spiralling ethnic violence and restore law and order.

Miss Bhutto yesterday held a conference of her party's legislators and officials in Islamabad to discuss the situation and the role of the army in restoring peace in Sind.

Sources in her Pakistan People's Party said she was confronted with the difficult task of defending sending the army into the province where her party enjoys only a slim three-vote majority. Observers believe this would undermine her authority and pave the way for a greater political role for the army in the future.

A formal announcement granting wide-ranging powers to the army including that of arrest and the trial and conviction of people involved in violence is expected to be made within 24 hours. Observers describe this as a state of undeclared martial law. The army is already in control in Hyderabad which has seen the worst of the clashes involving the Mohajirs, the post-independence immigrants from India. Major-General Javed Ashraf, the officer in charge, has ordered troops to shoot on sight any rioters. He has also ordered the confiscation of all loud-speakers in mosques.

Miss Bhutto's call for an all-party conference on the Sind situation has been turned down by the main opposition parties. Both the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, the party of the Mohajirs, and its rival extremist Sindhi group, Jeay Sind, have rejected invitations to the conference scheduled to be held on Wednesday.

Fifteen people, including three journalists, were killed in violence over the weekend.

## Italians vote on move to curb hunting

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

ITALY'S love affair with the referendum continues. Having voted on divorce, abortion, nuclear power and wage-indexing to name but a few issues on which a succession of governments had failed to deal with through the normal democratic process, 47 million Italians voted yesterday on the use of pesticides and on game shooting. The poll continues today.

Under the Italian Constitution, referendums can be used only to repeal existing legislation, so if the votes in favour of repeal win, the Government will be forced to create new and presumably more restrictive laws on pesticides and shooting.

Most Italians appear to agree that the use of pesticides in agriculture should be drastically reduced, even if this will make produce more expensive. But the explosive issue is game shooting.

Italy has a higher hunter density than Britain, the longest season and the widest range of animals that hunters can kill. The main parties, afraid of losing the votes of the 1.5-million strong shooting fraternity, have so far failed to take a clear stand on the issue.

## Shadow of racism looms over Washington mayor's drug trial

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

FIVE months after the arrest of Washington's mayor on charges of possessing cocaine, one of the most anxiously awaited trials in the US capital's recent history was due to open today: the United States of America v. Marion Barry.

Those still loyal to Mr Barry, a charismatic official who earned support during his 12 years in office by championing the concerns of his adopted city's underprivileged blacks, are distressed to see him reduced to the humiliation of a court number: federal case 90-0068 in the district court here. Other Americans, even white Washington liberals who once helped to bring him to power in a city that is more than two-thirds black, believe the mayor has earned this commonplace.

One long-time supporter of the mayor has dubbed the trial "the birth and death of Marion Barry" since its outcome will determine whether he will be able to stand for re-election this year. So far, he has refused to resign but slipped in popularity polls recently and looks less likely than he appeared several months ago to win an unprecedented fourth term.

Mr Barry is charged with 14 counts of cocaine use, conspiracy to use the illegal drug and lying to a grand jury about using it. If convicted on all the charges, he faces a maximum sentence of 26 years in jail and a \$1.25 million (£750,000) fine. He will stand trial in the same courtroom in which the Watergate trial took place in 1973 and 1974. For more than seven years, his reputation has been dogged by public rumours of cocaine abuse.

In broader terms, the trial of Mr Barry has been portrayed as motivated by pure racism. An influential minority of blacks, including the city's black-owned newspapers, have accused the white Establishment of orchestrating Mr Barry's downfall as an attack on black leadership. Mr Barry has likened his arrest to a "political lynching".

In a city riddled with racial tensions, the trial has taken on the proportions of an ideological battle between the white, conservative Establishment and struggling blacks. For many, the divide is personified in the figures of the District Attorney, Mr Jay Stephens, an ambitious, outspoken, white Republican, and Mr Barry, the son of poor Mississippi sharecroppers who worked his way up through society via the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

A handful of Mr Barry's supporters are so convinced the US judicial system cannot give him a fair trial that they have sent a petition to the United Nations asking the world body to send an observer mission to Washington to ensure he gets a decent hearing. Some academics and Washington residents have even warned of the risk of race riots in the capital whatever the verdict.

In theory, Mr Barry's ultimate fate lies in the hands of a jury for which selection was scheduled to begin at 10 am, three hours after the opening to the public of the court.

In recent days, however, there have been reports that Mr Barry and government prosecutors have discussed the possibility of a plea bargain which would spare him an embarrassing court appearance. In return for pleading guilty to some minor charges, the reports said, Mr Barry could even avoid the public airing of a videotape which led to his arrest on January 18 in an FBI "sting" operation.



# West to demand a new human rights order in the East

By ANDREW McEWEEN in LONDON  
AND CHRIS FOLLETT in COPENHAGEN

THE West is to demand that the former Soviet bloc nations commit themselves to Western standards on democracy, justice and freedom of movement as the price of agreement to a new European order for the post-Cold War era.

Foreign ministers of the United States, Soviet Union, Canada, and every European country except Albania arrive in Copenhagen tonight for one of the most important human rights meetings yet held. The second annual Conference on the Human Dimension marks a watershed. For the first time, all seven members of the Warsaw Pact countries have governments which take seriously their human rights promises, even if there are still serious deficiencies. It is this development, just as much as the

decline of communism, which has changed the West's attitude.

While delighted with the changes, the West wants its former adversaries to commit themselves to still higher standards before lowering its defences. They will be making a huge range of proposals with the aim of persuading Warsaw Pact nations to adopt standards the West regards as tenets of a civilized society.

Britain and the US will propose criteria for elections which ensure they are held regularly and fairly, with everyone having the right to form or join a political party. Britain and France will put forward minimum standards for a legal system. These include the presumption of innocence, the independence of legal practitioners, the right to a defence and the right to an appeal. Britain will also co-sponsor other proposals on freedom of expression, freedom of

association and peaceful assembly and the right to leave one's country without needing an exit visa.

Most of these areas have been partly covered by previous agreements, including the Vienna Declaration of 1989, but at the time even reformist communist countries were unwilling to go as far as the West wanted.

Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Foreign Minister of Denmark, said a "revolution" had taken place since the first meeting in Paris a year ago. "Copenhagen will become a centre for Europe's attempt to tidy up its affairs after the many breaches of freedom and human rights of the past 45 years. The time is right to put the Second World War and the partition of Europe behind us and co-operate in building up a new Europe for the people."

The Western tactic of linking security

agreements to human rights accords has proved successful. It began at Helsinki in 1975 with an agreement which, in effect, exchanged Western recognition of the European borders agreed at the end of the Second World War for Eastern promises on human rights. The communist governments of 1975 largely ignored their promises and real change did not come until Mr Mikhail Gorbachev came to power.

The organization which emerged from Helsinki — the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) — has become more important than any other forum for the future of Europe. Its role will increase still further when the 35 nations hold a summit on a new European order.

The Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna are one of many CSCE sub-forums, as is the human rights

meeting in Denmark. The West is insisting that the CSCE summit should not be held until a CFE treaty has been signed, which puts the timing in doubt. The earliest it could be held is November, but it is likely to be later.

The summit will probably result in the creation of a permanent CSCE secretariat with new powers. Britain would be willing for it to have a conciliatory role and a system for quick diplomatic intervention to avert conflicts. However, other countries will call for some security functions to be handed over to it. Britain would oppose this if it weakened the role of Nato.

The 600 delegates at the human rights conference are expected to produce a Copenhagen Declaration in about a month's time which will help to set the tone for the CSCE summit.

● Vienna deadline: All the remaining

problems at the CFE talks in Vienna will have to be resolved within the next two or three months if a treaty is to be signed by the end of this year, a senior British official said yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

He said the drafting of the treaty language was so complicated and detailed that it would be impossible within the timetable agreed by Nato and the Warsaw Pact to complete the text unless the differences were settled by the summer. "If we are still disagreeing in September, it could be very difficult to get a treaty by December," he said.

Nato foreign ministers meeting in Scotland this week will try to give a further push to the negotiations. The meeting will also make preparations for the Nato heads of government summit which is due to be held in London early next month.

## Gorbachov may sack cautious Ryzhkov

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

WITH opposition to his economic programme snowballing across the Soviet Union, President Gorbachov is increasingly likely to sack Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, his long-serving Prime Minister, when he returns from the US this week, sources said yesterday.

The President is also under pressure to agree to an historic coalition in the Council of Ministers with non-Communist radical reformers loyal to Mr Boris Yeltsin, Mr Gorbachov's arch-rival who was elected president of the Russian Federation last week. Such a coalition of forces, already formed within Mr Yeltsin's Russian parliament, would spell the beginning of the end of more than 70 years of exclusively Communist rule.

The Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Parliament, is due to vote today or tomorrow on the Government's plan for a "controlled market economy". But the plan has been attacked from all sides as poorly thought out, and has caused panic-buying.

Deputies said the Government could well lose this week's vote, for the first time in Soviet history, forcing Mr Ryzhkov to resign or face dismissal. "Ryzhkov will be the scapegoat," a deputy said.

Mr Ryzhkov, who was slightly injured in a road accident at the end of last

week, has looked increasingly haggard during Supreme Soviet debates on the economic plan which he presented two weeks ago. On Friday, Belorussia joined the Ukraine in rejecting price rises without a simultaneous increase in wages.

Mr Yeltsin, arguing that the plan puts the burden of a transition to market forces on the shoulders of an already hard-pressed population, has lambasted it as "anti-Russian". Mr Yeltsin is locked in a power struggle with the central authorities over the extent to which an independent Russia can control its own resources.

Many radical reformers place their hopes in an accommodation, if not a reconciliation, between Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gorbachov, who last week made a disastrous attempt to block Mr Yeltsin's election.

Mr Yeltsin said at the weekend that the Russian parliament would go ahead with a declaration of sovereignty and he refused to be more "gentle", declaring: "I am what I am." His populism is infuriating to party hardliners, who fear their power is crumbling. But the Yeltsin factor has also alarmed Mr Gorbachov.

Yesterday Mr Gavril Popov, the reformist mayor of Moscow, urged Mr Gorbachov to sink his differences with Mr Yeltsin and recognize that they have a common enemy in the hardline party apparatus. He said Mr Yeltsin was swept to power precisely because of his stated willingness to form a coalition.

Mr Gorbachov should seize on the same idea by forming a left-centre coalition in which the centre would include "good elements" from among the party conservatives. Mr Popov said such an alliance had been formed in the Moscow City Soviet.

If Mr Ryzhkov does go, his successor could be either Mr Yuri Maslyukov, aged 53, the head of the state planning organization Gosplan, or, more radically, Mr Stanislav Shatalin, aged 56, a leading economist who openly talks of the need to replace communism with social democracy. Both men are members of Mr Gorbachov's Presidential Council, and both accompanied him to the US.

Mr Ryzhkov, 61, has been Mr Gorbachov's Prime Minister since September 1985. But he has been cautious, even sceptical in his approach to reform, focusing on the need to improve rather than abandon state planning.

## Ten-year plan for Soviet forces

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW

MARSHAL Dmitry Yazov, the Soviet Defence Minister, yesterday outlined a programme of reform in the Soviet armed forces, including the gradual transition from conscription to a largely professional army and navy. But he said the reforms would take up to 10 years to carry out, and that despite reductions in tensions in Europe, the Soviet Union had to maintain "battle readiness".

In an article in *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star), the army newspaper, Marshal Yazov said that the reforms "must be planned and carried out in such a way that they do not damage the defence capability of the armed forces". Senior army officers are suspicious of Mr Gorbachov's demands for *perestroika* in the army and are concerned that his economic reform programme involves deep cuts in defence spending in the new era of East West cooperation.

Marshal Yazov maintained that the planned military reforms will be "profound" and said they included plans for streamlining the military. Last month, Mr Gorbachov demanded the military leadership reappraise its role and its organization.

The Defence Minister said that in 1991, recruits to the Soviet Navy could choose to serve two years instead of three, as at present, or could serve for the full three years for more pay. He said the armed forces needed better training and more computerization as well as less "bureaucratic leadership and paper shuffling". He promised that pensions would increase by up to 20 per cent, and quarters would be improved.

He said the army would give a sympathetic ear to those who wished to carry out their army service in or close to their home town. But he rejected proposals for increasingly independent Soviet republics to form their own armies, saying that in view of ethnic tensions and rivalries, this could have seriously negative consequences.



Arms talk: Mr Edvard Shevardnadze smiles but keeps his arms folded as he talks with Mr James Baker, seeming to emphasise that while personal relations are on a new level, little of substance was conceded

## Tapping brains of capitalism's kings

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN MINNEAPOLIS

THE cream of American capitalism flew into Minneapolis-St Paul yesterday for an unprecedented two-hour brainstorming session with President Gorbachov.

With the Soviet economy in precipitate collapse, Mr Gorbachov was expected to use the meeting at a downtown hotel to tap his audience's formidable pre-enterprise expertise and to urge large scale trade and investment in the Soviet Union.

The 145-strong guest list was drawn up by the Russians, who insisted on chairmen or chief executives only, and it read like a veritable Who's Who of corporate America. The guests were drawn from the disciplines most sorely needed by the Soviet Union — industry, finance, agriculture and high technology. The heads of General Motors, Chrysler and Ford were there, of Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola, of Heinz, Honeywell, American Express and the Chase Manhattan Bank, to name but a few.

The Gorbachovs were expected to spend seven hours in Minneapolis-St Paul, and in advance of their arrival there

was not the slightest sign here that that extraordinary brand of manic mass hysteria known as Gorbymania had died out with the Eighties.

The visit to this hub of the American heartland — their first venture beyond the traditional east coast terminals of Washington and New York — had inspired excitement to match even the 1987 baseball World Series triumph of the Minnesota Twins.

Though the day was wet and overcast the authorities expected thousands, if not tens of thousands, to turn out. They bought in 1,000 barrels, 31,000 feet of half-inch rope and scores of portable lavatories to control and cater for the crowds.

Anticipating one of Mr Gorbachov's spontaneous walkabouts, the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* even printed a crash course in Russian small talk ("Shito voy dooma-yet-yeh o Minnisot-yeh?" — What do you think of Minnesota?).

By yesterday morning the last of a vodka company's advertisements poking fun at Mr Gorbachov had been removed from hoardings. Soviet flags and welcome banners festooned the twin cities' cen-

tres. Along the route of the Gorbachov motorcade (his Zil limousines were flown in specially) Russian road signs had been erected, flowers planted, verges mowed, every scrap of litter swept away.

In recent days, in a spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm, local well-wishers have deluged the state governor's office with literally hundreds of gifts for the Gorbachovs from homemade jams and cakes to a Cyrillic-script Monopoly set with Moscow streets made by the Minnesota manufacturer of the game's American version.

Apart from addressing business leaders, Mr Gorbachov was to lunch with Mr Rudy Perpich, the state governor, tour the headquarters of the computer giant Control Data, and — reminiscent of Nikita Khrushchev's 1959 Iowa visit — see a Minnesota dairy farm. Mrs Gorbachov was to visit a typical suburban American family.

The Russians selected Minneapolis because it is both an agricultural and electronics centre, and because of the unusually strong trade links forged by Mr Perpich and some 50 Minnesota com-

panies who export to the Soviet Union everything from grain to snowmobiles to doughnut machines.

Control Data is awaiting US approval to export six huge mainframe computers to improve safety at Soviet nuclear plants. Honeywell, another local company, last week agreed to develop for the Soviets a new satellite navigation system.

The state of Minnesota plans to open a trade office in Moscow this summer. Demand by local businessmen for access to Mr Gorbachov has been phenomenal. The former US vice president, Mr Walter Mondale, now a Minneapolis lawyer, said he had been inundated with requests to use his influence.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," he said. "Gorbachov is probably the most stellar celebrity in the world right now and he is coming to our community."

There are limits to Gorbymania however. When they learned that the Mid West is home to large numbers of Baltic Americans, the Soviets abandoned plans for Mr Gorbachov to address a huge outdoor rally.

## Bonn to press for radical Nato changes

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

HERR Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, will seek to persuade Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to agree to work rapidly for a radical change in the character of Nato when the two meet in Copenhagen on Wednesday to follow up what is seen here as a "very positive" outcome of the Washington superpower summit. The idea is to dissolve the alliance into a European security structure, with the Soviet Army working for peace alongside the forces of all other states.

For his part, Mr Baker is expected to urge West Germany to lead the way in providing economic and technical support for the Soviet Union as President Gorbachov struggles to introduce a free market economy. The signs are that he will be pushing at a partially open door, because West German ministers have been calling recently for much greater Western involvement in *perestroika*, recognizing that Mr Gorbachov is in danger if his reforms do not soon begin to show positive benefits.

West Germany is keenly interested in expanding its economic interests in the Soviet Union. However, with investors here expected to concentrate on developing East Germany in the immediate future, Herr Genscher is expected to suggest that practical help such as lifting Cocom restrictions and providing management expertise is best.

Herr Willy Wimmer, the junior West German Defence Minister, sought to merge both ideas in an interview in *Die Welt am Sonntag* yesterday. A member of the Christian Democrats, he was speaking with full authority when he said that it would be logical to bring in the Soviet Union as a member of the seven-nation "club" of industrialized nations, thus avoiding confrontation.

He suggested that this philosophy should go beyond the economy to a joint European security force involving all the armies of the different states, organized in a similar way to the present federal police forces within West Germany. "Our task is to bind the Soviet Union into a European security system so that a peace line is set up throughout the northern hemisphere between Tokyo, Moscow, Brussels, Washington and San Francisco, including one Europe which is developing a common market and growing together politically."

These ideas are very much in line with those being urged by Herr Genscher, a Free Democrat. In a weekend interview the Foreign Minister also set out his ideas for a new kind

of Nato. The ideological basis for a West-East confrontation had fallen by the way, he said, so there was no longer any reason for the Alliance and the Warsaw Pact to do anything but co-operate. It was an important task for them both to establish a new kind of relationship.

"That means the alliances are ripe for a political function, for a disarmament policy function, an arms control function and for working together to create a new security structure in Europe."

"I believe that within such a new relationship between the defence blocks, the question of the alliance membership of a united Germany will be more easily answered as we shape a new Europe in which the security interests of the Soviet Union are taken into account and in which the Soviet Union also sees advantages."

## Thatcher gives her backing

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister, who leaves for a visit to the Soviet Union this week, yesterday gave her strongest backing to the leadership of President Gorbachov. Mrs Thatcher said that he was a "remarkable president and a remarkable person".

During a phone-in programme on the BBC World Service, she said: "When you think that for the greater part of this century the old type of Communism has held sway throughout the Soviet Union and also has had the objective of expanding throughout the world and he had the courage and vision to say, it isn't working, I think that praise for Mr Gorbachov is fully merited."

She said that traditionally when sitting down with the old Communist leaders, all they did was read out paragraphs from a pile of papers; they would never answer questions put to them. But Mr Gorbachov always tackled questions and gave full answers. "So, yes, I'm a great fan of President Gorbachov."

Mrs Thatcher flies to Moscow on Thursday for a four-day visit to the Soviet Union. She will see Mr Gorbachov for talks on Friday and the following day will fly to Kiev to attend the special British trade festival. On Sunday she will go on to Leninakan in Armenia, the worst hit area in the 1988 earthquake, to open the Lord Byron School, which has been built with British donations.

## Russians ask if new freedoms are worth going hungry for



Queuing outside the McDonald's restaurant in Moscow. An hour's wait was thought reasonable

IF ONE image stands out as a symbol of the revolution which has overtaken Soviet society since I was last in Moscow five years ago, it is the sight of huge posters depicting bare-breasted models — prominent among them our own Samantha Fox — on sale at the underground station near the Times Moscow office.

The images of topless models smiling enticingly from under a sign which reads, "Lenin Metro, workers of the world unite", are unbelievable to anyone who remembers the prudish, tightly-controlled orthodox Soviet Union of the past, in which pornography was part of a seamy and unacknowledged underworld.

The change, I am told, began last year with a film called *Little Vera* in which the sexual act was portrayed for the first time. Many older Russians were horrified, and wrote to the newspapers in droves to complain. But the actress who portrayed the heroine appeared in *Playboy* and it can surely only be a matter of time before a Russian edition of *Playboy* appears.

Censorship appears to have gone by the board, certainly in films and to a degree in publications. Russians queuing to buy *Pravda* are also snapping up at £1 a time (the average wage is £200 a month) something called *Adventures of a Cosmic*

## -MOSCOW- COMMENTARY

RICHARD OWEN

loosening of ideological control. In fact, things are so lax that some Russians speak openly of complete "disintegration" and are half-hopeful, half-fearful of what their daring behaviour and the relaxation of central control might lead to.

On the old Arbat, the splendidly restored pedestrian zone, strolling crowds yesterday ogled erotic paintings and besieged hawkers selling stapled photocopies of *The Joy of Sex* for £8 (sterling) each. But shoppers also bought photocopy extracts from the frank memoirs of Boris Yeltsin, the maverick reformist politician who last week became president of the Russian Federation.

Mr Yeltsin's revelations of corruption and privilege in the Kremlin, not to mention his cutting remarks on the influence wielded by President Gorbachov's wife Raisa, are still too explosive to be published officially, but no one intervenes to stop the Yeltsin extracts being sold, or to stop the nearby caricaturist selling wickedly witty pictures of Raisa as the new tsarina (empress) complete with golden crown. Further down the street an enterprising photographer has set

up a cardboard cut-out of Mr Gorbachov so that Russians can get a frisson from having their picture taken next to him.

Mr Gorbachov, unfairly, gets little credit for making this freedom possible; instead he is widely derided for having made the economic crisis worse in his efforts to bring about reform. "We have freedom of speech, but no food," said one vendor of "perestroika kitsch", including a matryoshka doll in the shape of Mr Gorbachov. "What is better, freedom or bread?"

Freedom has another flip side — crime. Moscow used to be the safest capital on earth, but now foreigners are warned to hold on to their wallets, and never to get into a taxi which already has a passenger in it, because taxi-drivers and their accomplices are at the centre of a network of robbers. But a film called *We Can't Live Like This* which went on release in Moscow at the weekend goes much further. It suggests that the Soviet system is itself founded on crime, from the murder of the last Tsar (the subject of a new book called *The Last of the Romanovs*) to Stalin's mass murders and beyond. Yesterday the queues for the film at the Rossiya cinema were as long as the queues for McDonald's hamburgers on the other side of Pushkin Square. There was less enthusiasm at the Leningrad Hotel casino on the road to the airport where the croupiers are English and

German but the dollar-rich clientele is mostly drawn from the powerful Soviet mafia.

Some things in Russia are eternal: one man who had queued for over an hour to buy one McDonald's strawberry milk shake told me he thought this was "reasonable". Amid a sense of impending change, there is still a timeless Russian fatalism and inefficiency. The Intourist Hotel near Red Square has a new coffee lounge complete with fountain. But alas, it is closed for hours at a time for "sanitation" or "stock-taking". In Moscow's backstreet courtyards, drunks still weave an unsteady path, and in the dusty streets the battered trucks are still based on American wartime lend-lease technology. Even the smell of Russia is the same: a potent mixture of diesel, cheap cigarettes, disinfectant and vodka.

On the other hand, Russia's developing democracy is about to get another dose of Western — in this case, British — culture to help bring it into the modern world. This week Moscow television begins showing *Yes, Prime Minister*, delightfully rendered into Russian as *Da, Gospodin Premier Ministr*. The show, *Pravda* suggested yesterday, would boost Russia's fledgling parliamentary democracy and improve the quality of televised debates. The first broadcast coincides, appropriately enough, with the arrival in the Soviet Union later this week of Mrs Thatcher.



## Former secret police blamed for Prague terror blast

FROM PETER GREEN IN PRAGUE

THE leader of Civil Forum, Mr Jan Urban, yesterday accused members of Czechoslovakia's former Secret Police, the StB, of masterminding the bombing in Prague's Old Town Square at the weekend in an apparent attempt to disrupt this week's elections.

Police said they received no warning and no one has claimed responsibility for Saturday's bombing, which hurled lead shrapnel into a crowd of schoolchildren and tourists and left 19 people injured.

Five children were among the injured, but only a West German tourist was kept in hospital with a shrapnel wound in the head.

CTK news agency yesterday reported that the condition of the injured West German was

serious but with "good prospects of recovery."

President Havel called for tough action against terrorists in a radio interview yesterday. "I consider it very important to show a strong hand, to show that freedom and democracy are not understood by us as a situation when everybody can act as they please," he said.

"The fact that it happened such a short time before the elections is a clear indication that one of the probable culprits is somebody from the circles of enemies of this power and such enemies must be clearly shown they do not stand a chance," Mr Havel said in the radio interview without elaborating.

The metal pipe which served as the bomb's casing was made of a rare alloy, and police have invited specialists to help them identify it.

The blast was the first act of random violence since last November's "Velvet Revolution" which ended 41 years of communist rule.

Mr Urban said Civil Forum had been warned by unnamed sources that something might happen. "But nothing would have led us to guess it could have been this," Mr Urban said. "It was an attempt to threaten the people and destabilize the situation, and show the Government is not able to keep the peace. After the elections we will have to come down harder on them," he added.

Asked if he thought the bombings could have been masterminded by elements from among the hundreds of former communist secret policemen dismissed from their jobs in the past few weeks, Mr Urban said: "I do."

At the order of Mr Jan Ruml, the newly-appointed Deputy Interior Minister and a former spokesman for the Charter 77 human rights movement, hundreds of secret policemen have been sacked in the past three weeks for their involvement in human rights abuses under the former communist regime.



Mourners swarm over the mausoleum in Tehran of the Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader who died a year ago at the age of 89. With ceremonies underway throughout Iran to commemorate the anniversary of his death, his spiritual successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said at the weekend: "Imam Khomeini is an immortal truth. His name is the flag of the revolution. His voice is the voice of the revolution."

## Bucharest stands firm as hunger strikers near death

FROM CATHERINE ADAMS IN BUCHAREST

TWO huge eyes stare upwards in different directions from a mass of matted hair as if looking to another world. A figure almost obscured by a dirty rug thrown over a camp bed lies motionless in a dingy tent awash with mud. Mr Bogdan Gradin, aged 34, a teacher, is waiting for death.

He is one of 13 Romanian hunger strikers who have suffered permanent brain damage already in their fast for the democracy which the victors in last month's elections seem to have forgotten.

A week ago Mr Bogdan, paralysed from the waist down at birth, was charging through crowds of high-spirited demonstrators in his wheelchair, one of 10,000 revolutionaries chanting slogans for liberty in the anarchic "neo-Communist free zone" in University Square here.

Doctors have revealed that character disorders and ir-

revocable damage to brain cells have afflicted the hunger strikers.

A month ago anti-government demonstrators gathered nightly in the square, filled with hope that their protest would somehow convince former Communist Party activists, among whom they include President Iliescu, to resign. Now only stragglers remain.

The new Government has made only one attempt at dialogue with the hunger strikers. Two ministers arrived at the site two weeks ago, but claimed they were chased away. The protesters want Romania to be purged of "Communist corruption" and demand an independent television station.

Dr Dragoș Nicolescu, aged 59, who has volunteered to oversee them, said: "They are absolutely decided and determined. Some sadly don't ac-

tually want to live. A third of them are disabled, and they have made peace with their lives."

Two weeks ago Mrs Doina Cornea, the well-known dissident, stopped her hunger strike and urged those in University Square to do the same. "You must stop. The Government have hearts of stone," she said. Even friends and supporters attempting daily to convince the protesters to eat have failed.

"No one can talk them out of it now," said Dr Nicolescu. "These people have suffered dreadful things under Communism and they cannot forget it."

Mr Bogdan himself, his high-pitched, rasping voice quavering, said: "Of course I think about dying, but I'm not afraid. Death is the same for me, whether it happens in three days' time or a hundred years. It's the same."

## Sharon increases pressure on Shamir

FROM REUTER IN TEL AVIV

MR ARIEL Sharon, the Israeli hardliner who led Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said yesterday that he would try to form a government if the caretaker Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, failed to do so.

"I think there is no need at the moment, but if a situation is created where Mr Shamir isn't ready to form a government when he can form a government, the answer is yes," Mr Sharon, aged 62, told a news conference when asked if he would try to take charge.

The hawkish former defence minister has long vied with Mr Shamir to lead the hardline Likud party. He wants to stop the 74-year-old Prime Minister from renewing a unity government that fell in March over American proposals for peace with the Palestinians.

Mr Shamir must enlist parliamentary support behind a

Likud-led coalition by Thursday, and yesterday he summoned Likud Cabinet ministers to a meeting on strategy. Mr Shamir has solicited support from right-wing partners favouring harsher measures to quash the nearly 30-month-old Palestinian intifada.

But facing growing world pressure to advance peace, he has considered rejoining the more dovish Labour party, led by Mr Shimon Peres in a coalition government. He has had trouble finding a formula for renewing the partnership since it collapsed.

A senior government official said: "Mr Shamir wants a unity government but can't have it. He can have a narrow government but doesn't want it." A Labour spokesman said that his party could be drawn into negotiations if Likud were willing to consider talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

## Guerrillas claim big victories in Cambodia

Bangkok — Khmer Rouge guerrillas claimed important successes throughout Cambodia on the eve of a Tokyo conference aimed at ending the country's 11-year war.

The guerrillas said the victories were near Phnom Penh, the capital, and in the north-west and south-west. They said they had "liberated" more than 50 villages and routed government and Vietnamese troops. (AP)

## US base killing

Olango — Two robbers stabbed to death Lieutenant Richard Brown, a US Navy officer, in his flat outside Subic naval station in the Philippines, the second such killing at the American base in a month. (Reuters)

## Tunisia quake

Tunis — An earth tremor measuring four on the Richter scale shook the Gafsa area of south-west Tunisia but there were no immediate reports of damage. (Reuters)

## 19 miners die

Algiers — Nineteen miners were feared drowned after water flooded the Kherzet Youcef zinc and lead mine in Setif province. (Reuters)

## Church bombed

Stockholm — A bomb blew two holes in the outer wall of a church in Mariestad, where there has been a wave of attacks against refugees. (Reuters)

## Refugee influx

Darwin — Australian fears an influx of Indochinese boat people in the next few weeks after the rescue of 79 Cambodians in the Timor Sea. (AFP)

## Killer flash

Dhaka — Six children were killed when lightning struck a playing field during a football game near the industrial town of Bogra in northern Bangladesh. Four children died on the spot and the other two in hospital.

## Ethiopia claim

Nairobi — Two rebel groups said their forces had killed more than 1,200 government troops in the latest battles in northern Ethiopia. (Reuters)

## Bulgarian protest over shooting

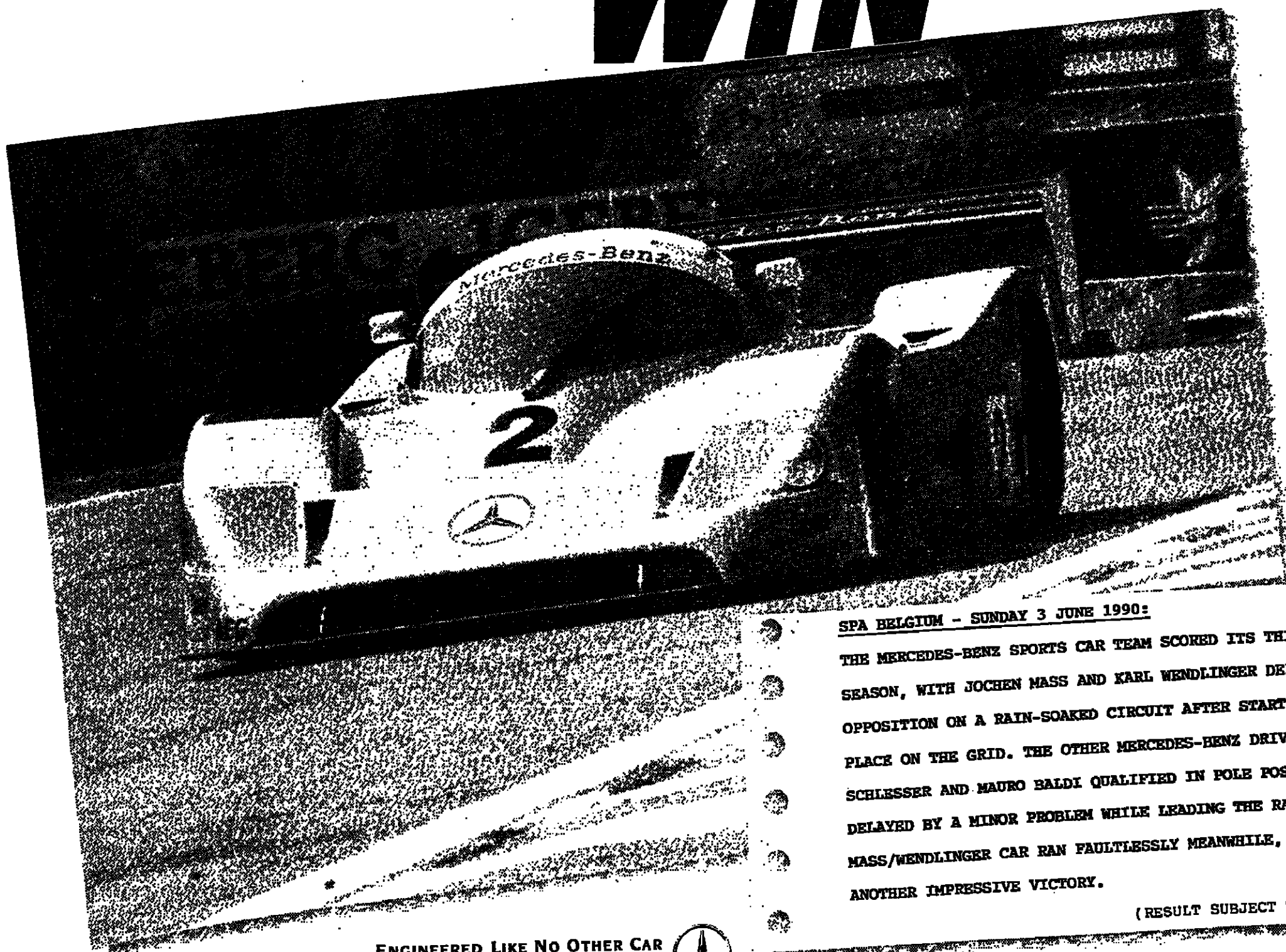
FROM REUTER IN SOFIA

BULGARIAN army officers yesterday called for the resignation of the Defence Minister, Mr Dobri Djurov, after an officer shot an opposition activist, the latest in a series of mysterious deaths before this month's elections.

The opposition Demokratiya published an appeal from a group of non-communist army officers calling the minister to account for abuses of political influence in the armed forces. The opposition alleges that a supporter of the Union of Democratic Forces alliance was shot dead by an army officer in Shumen last Thursday night.

The newspaper reported that he died when one of a group of socialist supporters pulled a gun after a political argument in a bar. The government said he died when an officer used a gun to break up a street fight.

# MERCEDES-BENZ WIN



SPA BELGIUM - SUNDAY 3 JUNE 1990:

THE MERCEDES-BENZ SPORTS CAR TEAM SCORED ITS THIRD WIN OF THE SEASON, WITH JOCHEN MASS AND KARL WENDLINGER DEFEATING STIFF OPPOSITION ON A RAIN-SOAKED CIRCUIT AFTER STARTING FROM SECOND PLACE ON THE GRID. THE OTHER MERCEDES-BENZ DRIVEN BY JEAN-LOUIS SCHLESSEUR AND MAURO BALDI QUALIFIED IN POLE POSITION, BUT WAS DELAYED BY A MINOR PROBLEM WHILE LEADING THE RACE. THE MASS/WENDLINGER CAR RAN FAULTLESSLY MEANWHILE, TO SCORE YET ANOTHER IMPRESSIVE VICTORY.

(RESULT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION)

ENGINEERED LIKE NO OTHER CAR IN THE WORLD



hungry for



# Gorbachov's new face

Mary Dejevsky

Washington  
Americans claimed last week to have seen a new Gorbachov: greyer, more rambling and more emotional than the slick, clean-cut operator of earlier summits. And they loved him all the more.

President Gorbachov certainly gave vent to his feelings more liberally than on any previous foreign visit. At the Soviet embassy lunch, he gave an unstructured personal account of the difficulties facing perestroika. At breakfast with congressional leaders, he sounded personally insulted by President Bush's decision to renew China's trading privileges despite Tiananmen Square, while withholding similar privileges from the Soviet Union.

Receiving the Albert Einstein peace prize, he said he felt "so emotional that it is with difficulty that I find the right words to express my thanks". At the ceremony to sign the formal summit agreements, he said: "It seems that I have said even more than I intended to say. I think it means that I'm human in the sense that I'm emotional..."

Gorbachov may simply feel more at ease in the United States now. Not only does he have experience of the US, but also as executive president — a post whose outer forms are closely modelled on the American presidency — he may feel on a more equal footing with his host than at any previous encounter.

Gorbachov's more emotional manner could also be a result of his cumulative tiredness and preoccupation with problems at home. But another, not necessarily far-fetched, explanation may be that the new image was deliberately cultivated. He may have been advised that the American public would appreciate and understand a leader who displayed his feelings more openly than is customary for Soviet politicians.

Whatever the reason, the more personal approach went down well. There was much talk of the Soviet leader's sincerity and sympathy for his predicament over the growing upheaval at home.

Yet while the new Gorbachov was a novelty for the American public, the Soviet public would have been less impressed. At home, Gorbachov can be both personal and emotional, but his emotion often takes the form of short temper and bursts of anger. His tendency to allow personal feelings to intrude into political situations was once singled out — albeit gently — by one of his closest colleagues, Politburo member Aleksandr Yakovlev, as a trait he might usefully learn to tame.

With hindsight, Gorbachov's temperament can be blamed for some of the most acute problems he currently faces. One is the rise of Boris Yeltsin, which began with Yeltsin's removal from the post of Moscow Communist Party first secretary.

Each time Gorbachov talks about this episode, he describes it in the same way. He was on holiday in the Crimea, where he received a letter from Yeltsin stating his intention of resigning the Moscow post because of the opposition he had encountered. Gorbachov asked him to reconsider. Yeltsin refused, and found himself dismissed instead. Gorbachov appears to have taken Yeltsin's refusal to delay his resignation as a personal affront and speaks with continuing bitterness about his stubbornness.

Gorbachov appeared similarly riled over the behaviour of Armenian nationalist groups after the earthquake in December 1988, when he stood for several minutes beside his plane at Yerevan airport and accused "extremists" of using the disaster for their own ends. His obvious anger annulled much of the bridge-building accomplished by the prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Gorbachov took the Supreme Soviet's initial refusal to establish a new-style presidency just as personally. He was angered also by the anti-regime demonstrators in Red Square on May Day, whom he has several times described as "irresponsible extremists".

His response to the Lithuanian declaration of independence also seemed shot through with pique. The Lithuanian leaders, he maintained, deliberately brought forward the second round of their elections to ensure that the republic's new parliament could meet before the special session of the Soviet parliament which was held to create the post of USSR president.

The Lithuanian leaders, Gorbachov says repeatedly, went about their independence declaration by stealth, meeting in secret by night, without waiting either for the proposed law on secession or for details of projected new federal arrangements for the Soviet Union. Gorbachov's description of the Lithuanian government varies — at his most virulent he calls them "extremist adventurers" — but always he harks back to what he regards as the underhand way in which Lithuania pre-empted his efforts to change the nature of the federation for the better.

Whether the issue is Boris Yeltsin or the Armenians, the law on the presidency or Lithuanian independence, Gorbachov seems to feel personally betrayed. He treats each not as a challenging problem to be solved, but as a personal insult calculated to sabotage his mission to improve the Soviet Union.

Abroad, Gorbachov's emotional spontaneity may be an endearing characteristic and a political asset. In the Soviet Union, however, it has been a recurrent weakness which has aggravated and increased his myriad difficulties, weakened his own position, and may yet bring his downfall.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

Man and woman together (singing): "Baby, baby, since we never agree."

Woman: "You like the movies, and I like TV."

Right, we're getting the picture. He's the outgoing sort, she's more of a home-body...

Woman: "I go to bed early."

Man: "And I party all night."

Poor girl, bit of a Martha, really. Probably make somebody a good wife...

Woman: "Our friends are saying we ain't gonna last."

Man: "I love you slowly."

Man: "And, baby, I'm fast."

Woman: "I like it quiet."

Man: "And I like to shout!"

Man and woman together: "But when we get together, it all works out."

Good job she puts up with him. I wouldn't...

Man and woman together: "Who'd have thought that we could be lovers?"

Man: "She makes the bed."

Woman: "And he steals the covers."

Sounds like a first-class slob. What on earth does she see in him...?

Man: "She's got the money."

Woman: "And he's always broke."

And there we must leave Paula Abdul and Derek Deight, whose latest single, "Opposites Attract", has been high in the charts recently. Deservedly. It is witty, written, catchy and well-produced. But if Enid Blyton had incorporated images as sexist as these in a Noddy story, you can be sure that Islington Council would have swooped on its libraries and organized a public book-burning before you could say "Mr Ploot" — except that the Noddy books have been removed already, because of Mrs Blyton's negative stereotyping of gollies.

Racist stereotyping is an important target of radical protest. But so is sexist stereotyping. When black musicians reinforce male chauvinist stereotypes — as many do in great style — this must create awkward tensions in the minds of the "right on".

Such tensions are usually resolved by discreet silence. Like the remarkable news that the Tory-led Derby city council helps fund Asian community

centres from which "Untouchables" are barred, the sexist content of black rap presents one of those delicious dilemmas on whose horns it is such fun to watch white liberals squirming.

"Rap" music is generally acknowledged to be a product of the black ghetto culture, and it presents white liberals with this dilemma in its sharpest form. It glorifies a fighting-cock image: black male as ornament; a vain-glorious, strutting street-fighter, and abuser of women. Men — one senses from rap lyrics — are for fun and decoration; women are for men's pleasure, and clearing up after the party.

Positively smacking my lips at the prospect of advancing this crusty argument, I went into a record shop and asked the assistant for the most mindless rap tapes he could think of. He disputed the word "mindless". Rap was offensive, he said, but it was also quite clever. He recommended an artist called Ice-T. I bought the cassette.

The sleeve was decorated with the headless body of a naked woman, and a picture of Ice-T himself in a baseball cap. Nevertheless:

"I ain't no lover, I'm a fighter."

He told us —

"Hardcore radical rap-rhyme writer."

The record shop man was right: this was smart stuff.

"I'm rollin', death-tollin', of course the car's stolen."

But I'm blind to what's wrong, all I want is what's golden!"

Both, I was beginning to like this — and I had bought it to mock.

Lifestyle plush, females rush. Professional liar, schoolboys

Young girls desire, very few live to retire.

Cash flow extreme, dress code supreme, vocabulary obscene.

Definition: street-player — you know what I mean?"

What other albums had this fellow recorded, I wondered? I might start a collection.

"PEACE," concludes the sleeve. "Death is no answer. PLEASE CHILL!"

Brilliant! More! Oh dear, I think I had better not investigate the cassette system after all, I might end up liking that, too.

# William Rodgers, one of the original Gang of Four, writes an epitaph for the SDP

## Owen, the great might-have-been

Three years ago, on June 23, 1987, I wrote David Owen a letter in one last attempt to persuade him to accept merger between the SDP and the Liberals. "To accept union," I said, "would be to show you were magnanimous and capable of recognizing political realities." I added that to offer himself for leadership would be in keeping with the political courage he had hitherto shown and the democratic process he espoused. I received no reply.

All that has subsequently happened to the diminishing group he preferred to lead is predictable. For the other three members of the Gang of Four, the true SDP — the party we had launched together in 1981 — had been absorbed into and lived on in the Social and Liberal Democrats. This was both the logic of the Alliance and a clear majority wish of SDP members expressed in a ballot. In our view David Owen had no claim to the title he tried to keep alive. The end of his political ambitions is one man's personal tragedy but the disappearance of the Owenites is no great event.

This is not to diminish David Owen's distinct talent or the contribution he made to the establishment of the SDP and to its initial runaway success. None of us would want to rewrite history. And later, following the disappointment of the 1983 election, he restored morale and gave a sustained parliamentary performance of a high order. But he was helped in his leadership by the deferential instincts of the "political virgins" and the unwillingness of his colleagues to rock the boat. It was clear that the future would be different and that the leader of a merged party would have to show patience, demonstrate high managerial skills, be ready to seek compromises and to accept occasional defeats from within. This was not a prospect to which David Owen's natural qualities were suited.

Social Democrats and Liberals, first in the Alliance and now merged, have been victims of the disproportionate expectations that followed the launch of the SDP. The victories at Crosby and Hillhead and a brief period of sweeping success in the opinion polls led easily to talk of becoming the second party in the land and even of forming a government.

Without such euphoria, a 25.4 per cent share of the vote in the 1983 general election — only 2.2 per cent behind Labour — would have been seen as a major achievement.

Then in 1987, with Labour fighting a brilliant campaign and frightening Tory dissidents back into the fold, 22.6 per cent of the vote and 22 MPs was still much better than the Liberals had ever done on their own since the war.

The truth is that the success of the SDP and the Alliance was not a sudden spasm in the body politic. It was based on economic, social and demographic changes that were diminishing Labour's traditional support. In creating a new political party, the Gang of Four were providing a vehicle for those deeply disenchanted with the political system.

The setting up of the SDP was sometimes seen as a terminal blow to Labour. But it was always arguable that the shock might not kill but cure. Since Hugh Gaitskill's time, most of us had fought long and hard within the Labour Party to save it from its self-destructive tendencies. We had not been helped by the "legitimate left" — the soft left as it is now

called — which preferred to do nothing when not actively providing a Trojan Horse for the wreckers. It was only our departure that focused their minds on the fact that Labour was near to death and forced them into trying to save it.

It would be churlish to deny the skill with which Neil Kinnock has led his party back from the brink or to diminish the genuine advances that have been made. Labour's recent policy document takes moderation almost to the point of blandness. But for some of us, its serious content represents only where Labour should have been 20 years ago.

A future Labour government would still be desperately vulnerable to trade union pressure and there is no firm proposal to abandon the electoral college that chooses the Labour leader in favour of one member, one vote. Until the institutional tie between the trade unions and the Labour Party is broken — helped by public funding for all political parties — we cannot be sure that Labour will genuinely serve the whole nation.

Consider also a platform of constitutional changes of the kind

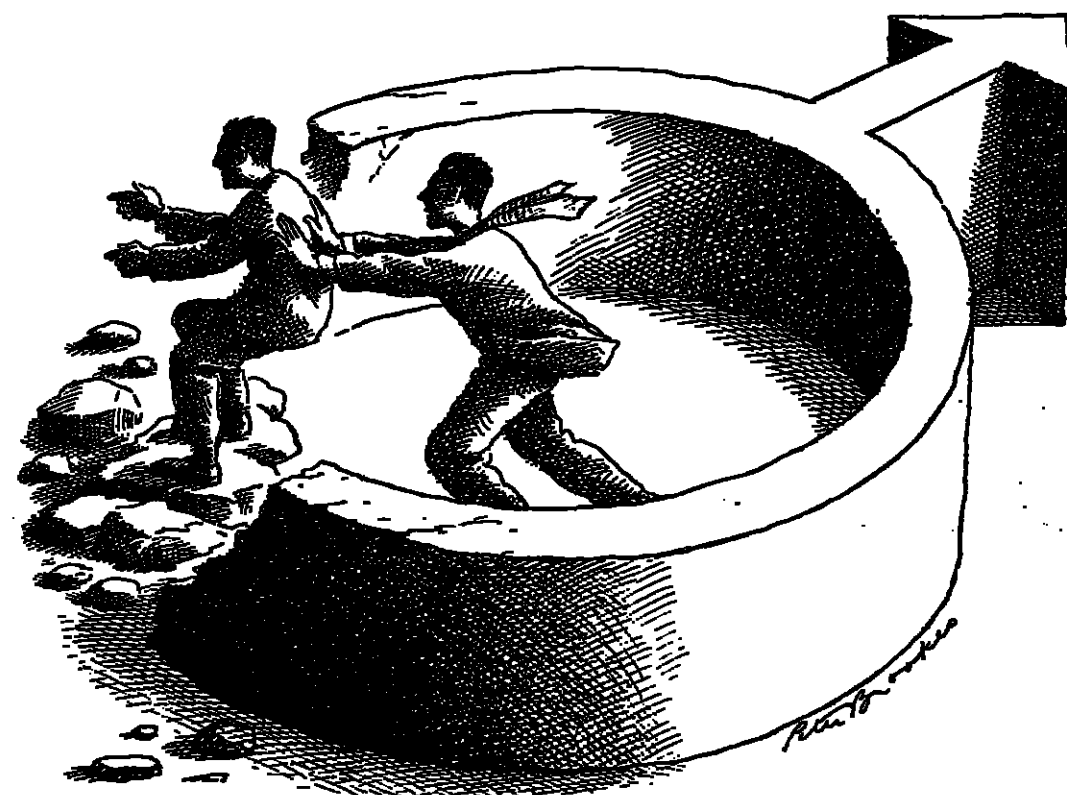
promoted by Charter 88, including a bill of rights and electoral reform. Any radical party of the centre-left should be capable of embracing this. But Labour remains profoundly conservative.

The sad end of David Owen's lonely little adventure will make no significant difference to the current scene, although his personal endorsement of Labour at the next election could be his final gesture. But there will be some relief among Liberal Democrats who were sorry to see old political friendships severed by arguments over the merger, followed by bruising electoral competition in the centre.

The local elections last month showed that the Liberal Democrats (like the old SDP) command much more support in the ballot box where it matters than in the opinion polls. I continue to expect a result in the 1992 general election much like 1987, with the Liberal Democrats winning more than 20 per cent of the votes and at least 20 seats. It would be an irony if Paddy Ashdown's party held the balance in the hung parliament that David Owen once so eagerly sought.

# Come out of that closet, or we go in and fetch you

Bernard Levin on the ugly intolerance of homosexuals who have given 'outing' a new and sinister meaning



discussion of homosexuality. Now, however, a new one has appeared, and may soon have devastating consequences: fear.

In this matter, as in so many others, the United States leads the way. A striking paradox of America is that it while it boasts, freely, that it leads the way in freedom, it is at the same time the most intolerant country in the democratic world. The intolerance comes not from authoritarian governments but from ludicrously unrepresentative pressure groups which bully, threaten and generally make a pestilential nuisance of themselves. (In what other civilized country could prohibition have been thought up, or Un-American Activities Committees, at least without being immediately hoisted off the stage?)

What has this got to do with homosexuality? Prepare, if you have not already encountered it, to accept into the language the word "outing" — not as a noun meaning a pleasant day at the seaside, but as the present participle of the active verb "to out".

A group of homosexual fanatics, claiming, falsely of course, to speak for all American homosexuals, have devised a vicious form of blackmail. Noting that many homosexuals have publicly admitted their sexual nature (in the argot of these matters, they have "come out"), they demand that all should follow that example, and those who refuse will be identified, against their will, as homosexuals — they will be "outed".

I can think of nothing more likely to set back, for years, possibly for ever, the longed-for understanding and acceptance of homosexuality in the mainstream of American culture and life, and a fortiori in ours. Here, over the years, there have been absurd claims, substantiated by nothing but a belief that sufficient repetition will (rightly, I fear) in time produce acceptance, as to the number of homosexuals in the population. The original claim was 4 per cent; then it went up to 10 per cent. Since there was no

evidence at all for the figure, all were free to extend it; when it reached 25 per cent I declared that the only heterosexuals in the entire country were Willie White-law and myself, and I later added Frank Bruno, because I didn't want a bunch of lives from that impressive list. But whatever the number of homosexuals, only a very small proportion have been willing to "come out".

For those who have not done so, I have sympathy, but this is a matter for a feeling much more important: justice. Most homosexuals lead lives as decent as the rest of us; at any rate I know of no evidence to contradict that claim. From time to time, the less expensive newspapers splash the previously unrevealed fact of, say, some actor's homosexuality; a wicked action. But what faces homosexuals now is the prospect of being "outed" against their will by their own kind, with ruin, for many, as the consequence.

This moral tuggery is to be deployed, it seems, by a small

number of homosexuals with no authority other than their own self-righteous malice, promoted as the route to homosexual acceptance. No doubt some are driven to this wickedness by a suppressed loathing of their own condition, but it is the effect, not the cause, which matters. There is also no doubt that real, not metaphorical, blackmail will be practised behind the "outing" movement, but that is unlikely to disturb the consciences of the "outers". It is unlikely that these could offer a rational explanation of their wish to damage or destroy thousands of their own kind; certainly the American version of "outing" has been defended in terms as incoherent as they are dishonest.

There is a dreadful irony in this story. Most of those who plan the "outings" are too young to know about it, but I well remember the first attempts to free homosexuals, when it was a matter of literally freeing them; homosexual actions, however private, discreet and mutual, constituted a criminal offence, punished by savage sentences. The fanatically homophobic Maxwell Fyfe, as Home Secretary, launched a kind of pogrom against homosexuals (when, incidentally, there was a known homosexual in the Cabinet), which led not only to imprisonment for many but also to countless personal tragedies, including suicides. (As far as I know, nobody has ever managed to identify the civil servant hero who dissuaded Maxwell Fyfe from prosecuting Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears.) Now, when homosexuals need not fear the law, they face another kind of torment, this time from the enemy within.

Serve them right, some would say. Most of us, I trust, would not. Surely, the years of misery, ostracism, concealment and persecution should have instilled, in those who came after, a spirit of tolerance towards those of their brethren who, for a variety of reasons, do not wish the fact of their homosexuality to be known.

Hitler persecuted homosexuals in the Third Reich; they were forced to wear a pink triangle, akin to the Jewish star. Now, if this horrible "outing" threat is put into practice, they will have to sport a similar brand, no less shameful for being invisible, and pinned upon them not by their persecutors but by their own kind.

## Bertie facing liquidation

With the stage set for a constitutional battle if the House of Lords rejects the Government's War Crimes Bill today, one early casualty of the showdown seems certain to be Lord Denham, Tory chief whip in the Lords. Denham knows his political future is at stake, and has been told by Downing Street that he is expected to deliver a vote in favour.

Denham's team to outstrip her longevity, having been appointed to the Tory frontbench in 1961. Recently he incurred prime ministerial wrath when the Government sustained four defeats on the Social Security Bill in one night, leading it to abandon the Bill 24 hours later. Denham was himself absent — dining with the Queen as part of his duties as a member of the Royal Household — and has been told there must be no similar fiasco over the War Crimes Bill. But, such is the strength of feeling

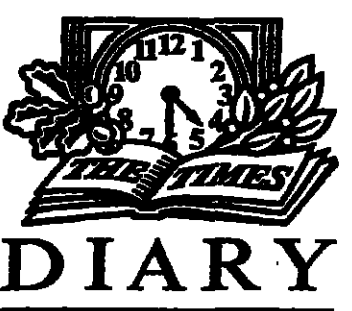
on the issue, defeat still looks likely. Instead of waiting to be sacked in the widely-expected mini-resuffle next month, some colleagues expect him to resign, ostensibly to devote more time to his increasingly successful career as a thriller writer. His successor is likely to be Lord Hesketh, Lord Cainsworth or Lord Treigarn.

A senior Tory peer confides: "Denham has brought about his downfall by trying to serve too many masters — Mrs Thatcher, the Queen and the House of Lords — at the same time. He should know he can serve only one." And what says Denham himself? Nothing. He was fishing in a remote part of Scotland this weekend, reflecting on his future.

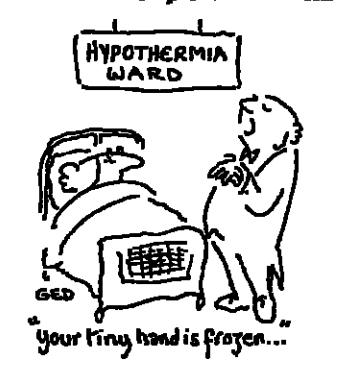
As the SDP finally flunks out, where are the depleted ranks of its peers to sit for the war crimes debate? The three benches they now occupy are likely to be invaded by hordes of Lib Dems seeking less cramped accommodation. While conceding it is a sad day, the Duke of Devonshire is undeterred. "I would still expect to be sitting on the SDP benches, which are so far back they are practically in Parliament Square," he says. Lord Alton, son of the Labour prime minister, was less sure of his welcome. "I understand we're all to be independent social democrats and sit on the cross benches."

## Opera unbuffed

For those whose delicate sensibilities would quail at the thought of a topless kissergram girl, the upmarket Operagram has just appeared in London. It is the idea of Manja



Leigh, musicians' agent and widow of Gerald, the 1950s band leader. When one of her cocktail pianists, John Strange, confessed that several evenings a week he was prevented from



ticking the ivories by his other job as a tenor in the Royal Opera House chorus, the opera-mad Leigh seized on the information with delight. Before Strange knew what was happening, he was carolling Wagner at Leigh's son's birthday party. The Operagram agency was the result, and now a team of singers is available day

and night to perform the aria of your choice for a mere £120. Last month, Strange was singing "Take a pair of sparkling eyes" from The Gondoliers for Jane Bunting's hen night, before she became Countess of Hillsborough. "They took so much trouble," says the Countess's business partner, Hannah Docherty. "A huge improvement on the strippogram, although I'm not sure she men thought so."

## Hair-raising

The virile and stylish image of Rex Harrison, who died on Saturday, was let down from time to time by his toupee. During the Broadway run of My Fair Lady, three descending chandeliers were employed for the act one finale — an effect described by Alan Jay Lerner as likely to cause the audience collective ecstasy. One night the chandeliers were lowered too far, and as they rose again to the right level, Harrison's toupee was seen to rise as well, hanging "like a bird's nest after a storm" while Harrison, to his credit, did not falter.

Cecil Beaton, designer of the film version, was called upon not only to prevent Harrison from wearing a double-breasted waistcoat — which made him look fat — and from becoming too sun-tanned for the academic Professor Higgins, but also to decide where the famous toupee's parting should be. Beaton usually failed to persuade Harrison to do anything he wanted. For the black and white Ascot scene, Beaton, hoping to make Higgins' costume conform to his monochrome aesthetic, designed a pearl-grey frock coat,

and tried to persuade Harrison into it. But Harrison preferred to stick to his tweeds and Gladys Cooper, as Mrs Higgins, was able to deliver the imperious line, "You're not even dressed properly," to which Higgins replied, "I changed my shirt."

## Garlic in space

The two Soviet cosmonauts aboard the damaged Mir space station are waiting anxiously for the arrival of the Kristall spacecraft launched last week, and not only because it will arrive with vital scientific equipment to ensure their safe return. We food shortages back home, the Russian authorities are determined that astronauts Anatoly Solovoyov and Alexander Balandin will not go short, and rations of fresh fruit and vegetables, pâté and tins of fish are on the way to keep up spirits.

Garlic is another vital item on the menu to pep up the cosmonauts' palates, dulled by their three months in space. Sadly though, there will be no vodka, as all Soviet space trips are officially dry. And proving that protecting the environment extends far beyond the atmosphere, fresh drinking water will be conveyed in Kristall's rubbish, dished by their three months in space. Sadly though, there will be no vodka, as all Soviet space trips are officially dry. And proving that protecting the environment extends far beyond the atmosphere, fresh drinking water will be conveyed in Kristall's rubbish, dished by their three months in space. Sadly though, there will be no vodka, as all Soviet space trips are officially dry. And proving that protecting the environment extends far beyond the atmosphere, fresh drinking water will be conveyed in Kristall's rubbish, dished by their three months in space.





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## THE OWEN LEGACY

Dr David Owen, who yesterday signalled the end of the Social Democratic Party, has suffered the fate of the political radical down the ages. He has left traces on the work of others, but no monument he could call his own. He mounted the most concerted challenge to mainstream politics since the Mosleyite defection from Labour in 1931, indeed since the rise of Labour itself. For the past nine years, Dr Owen and his friends have ensured the division of the anti-Thatcher forces at two general elections, helping the Conservatives to two crushing victories over Labour. They thus drove a desperate Labour Party to embark on internal reforms unprecedented since the War, carrying that party to a 10-15 point lead over the Conservatives.

The SDP was founded in 1981 in a fit of exasperation. The old campaigners for "democratic socialism" within Labour were dejected at the election of Mr Michael Foot as leader after the 1979 defeat. They saw a right-wing Conservative government then deeply unpopular, a Labour Party embalmied in unilateralism and union appeasement, and Liberalism moribund as ever. Yet they were never more than a negative force. From the start the SDP neglected the roots of British politics in organization and interest, a mistake Labour has never been allowed to make.

The failure to secure the defection of Mr Denis Healey and Mr Roy Hattersley left its leadership threadbare. More serious was the failure to capture the unions and the great local government interests. Without a deconstruction of the British electoral system, the money and organization of the unions continue to hold the key to any anti-Tory electoral force. Mr Neil Kinnock has sought not to end that force but to neutralize its electoral poison. The SDP-Liberal alliance came within three points of Labour's popular vote in 1983, but the votes were always too dispersed to produce a mould-breaking distribution of seats.

Dr Owen's only electoral hope was to offer a better dustbin than the Liberals for the protesting centre of British politics. When this failed, his hope was to lead a merged Alliance grouping. When the Liberal Democrats were formed in 1988, his personal cantankerousness allowed Mr Paddy Ashdown, of all people, to become titular leader of the political centre for the 1990s. Dr Owen was left with a rump party and a new-found enthusiasm for proportional representation, in the hope that his tiny band of MPs might just hold a balance of power in a hung parliament. There were occasional flourishes at by-elections, but last month's

Boote débâcle suggested only that those who live by by-elections also die by them. Yesterday, the SDP did not so much wind itself up as dematerialize.

The mould that the early SDP wished to break was not that of the two-party system, but of Labour as the alternative party. Yet Dr Owen, Lord Jenkins, Mr William Rodgers and Mrs Shirley Williams, knew that ancient giant well enough. They should have known that its sleep was not the sleep of death but of regeneration. In the final irony of their defection, they merely became party to Labour's reawakening.

Dr Owen was often accused of being a leader without a party and without a policy. True, he was the former. For all the complaints of the Americanization of British politics, charisma is not enough to win elections. Dr Owen refused to apply the arts of organization and compromise to his party, culminating in the absurdity of his sullen 1988 refusal to join the new Liberal Democrats. The glittering membership of 1981-2, mostly ageing dissidents from Labour in the 1960s who had done well in government but ill in Opposition, drifted away. Now doing well out of Thatcherism, they had failed to refashion Labour and found the task of fashioning another party distasteful. These fairweather friends, in the crushing retort of Sir Ralf Dahrendorf, sought not a better tomorrow but a better yesterday.

But Dr Owen was never a leader without a policy. His central thesis, that Labour was unelectable when tied to unilateralism and union privileges, was the key political intuition of the 1980s. He campaigned for this within the Labour Party and lost. He campaigned for it outside the party, and has all but won — as he admitted in his *Times* interview of last month. For him now to be welcomed back to Labour would at least be honourable.

None the less, Dr Owen stood for something which will make such a return difficult: a quality he shares, among contemporary politicians, perhaps with Mrs Thatcher alone. He has found in Britain's cramped political arena enough elbow-room for vigorous independence of spirit. Reckless, arrogant, quick to argue and slow to concede, he has had no truck with the trimmers and dandifiers of modern politics. He is now more fitted to the lone wilderness of back bench and television studio. His fall from grace demonstrates that politics in Britain is robust against mavericks, be they benign or dangerous. But his fall is sad for all that.

## CHINA'S LIVING DEAD

The Washington summit ended yesterday in concentrated *bonhomie*. The single exception was President Gorbachev's sarcastic reference to President Bush's decision — shortly before today's anniversary of China's Tiananmen massacre — to renew China's Most Favoured Nation trading status with the United States. What, he asked, should the Soviet Union do to deserve this coveted, and still denied, prize — "introduce presidential rule in the Baltic and at least fire a few rounds?"

Mr Bush has insisted on making the Soviet Union's MFN status conditional on peaceful negotiation of Lithuania's demand for independence while explaining that incentives worth \$2 billion in trade to China would "promote the reforms for which the victims of Tiananmen gave their lives". The evidence of the past year hardly supports this conclusion. The American concession is more likely to reinforce die-hards such as President Yang Shangkun, who contend that the Middle Kingdom can compel the "hostile foreign forces" which they blame for China's "instability" to deal on Peking's terms.

Since Tiananmen, the gulf has widened between China's stubborn old men and the rest of the formerly communist world. A country which a year ago took pride, on the economic front, in being in the vanguard of communist reformers has mustered all its formidable apparatus of "revolutionary justice" to compel an alienated opposition to bow to one-party dictatorship. Ironically, the armed suppression of Tiananmen Square's demonstrators can now be seen to have hastened the dissolution of the communist monopoly in Central Europe and the Soviet Union itself. Mr Gorbachev drew the lesson that the tree of state must bend to the winds of democratic change, or break. By preventing Herr Honecker from using the

troops he had readied in Leipzig, he initiated "peaceful evolution" in his European empire. China's response to these developments has been a campaign to "struggle against peaceful evolution and bury liberalization", presenting democratic ideas as just the latest invasion of China by the outside world. The current "150th anniversary" commemoration of the 1839-42 Opium War taps a deep xenophobic vein. The concurrent obsession with mindless obedience and "stability" reflects deep divisions, in the leadership, the military and even the security police.

Repression has been only partially effective. The most dramatic change in China has been the refusal of thousands of individuals to inform on family, friends, and neighbours. Before Tiananmen, China's "reforming" leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, had to contend with the distrust of the generation which had suffered through the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. China's youth, on whom its prospects for modernization depend, are now even more disaffected than their elders.

Since Tiananmen, the country has been at war with itself, as some of China's leaders half-acknowledge. The test will come when the battle for the succession to Mr Deng is resolved — or when he dies. China's leaders have immersed themselves in this struggle to the neglect of all else. None, even among those the West terms "moderates", is prepared to relinquish the party's monopoly. That only compounds China's international isolation. A year ago, Mr Deng clung to power at the expense of his revolution. As his grip slackens, a quasi-military dictatorship led by President Yang has imposed calm, but China's "stability" is as artificial as today's "celebrations" in Tiananmen Square, designed solely to keep the people from reclaiming their kingdom.

## FORTY YEARS TOO LATE

Faced with prima-facie evidence that several people guilty of war crimes are alive and at liberty in Britain, the House of Commons recently voted to make their prosecution possible. The Lords now seem likely to dissent. The Lords are right. The War Crimes Bill is not a sensible way forward in the lasting fight against anti-Semitism.

When the full extent of the suffering of the Jews and others at the hands of the Germans and their allies became generally known in 1945, a legal mechanism to identify, arraign and condemn the guilty did not exist. At the Nuremberg court was created. Many of the Nazi arch-villains, not to mention the small fry, were not in the dock; indeed, the Allies helped some to escape for their own disreputable reasons. The offences lacked proper precedents; the accused were tried and convicted retrospectively.

The quality of justice meted out at Nuremberg does not improve with the passage of time. But few would now quarrel with principle, to which the principal perpetrators of give effect, that the principal perpetrators of the Nazi genocide deserved to be punished. The Bill is designed to correct some of the sins of omission of post-war Allied policy. It of omission of post-war Allied policy. It follows later trials of war criminals in other countries and the work of people of great integrity, such as Herr Simon Wiesenthal.

This would be a laudable intention, were it not that the possibility of a fair trial is severely compromised by the passage of time. The age of those who might be convicted would, under

normal circumstances, disqualify them from serving substantial sentences. Above all, the Bill would breach the principle, hallowed by common law, that no man may be punished retrospectively for an offence for which he could not justly have been tried at the time. Nobody disputes that those who committed the crimes in question were not then British citizens. The lawyers among the Lords have taken their stand on this cardinal point. Many other peers agree, so anticipating future objections of defence counsel to retrospective legislation. A law that cannot reasonably be enforced is not a law worth passing.

If the Bill were to be rejected, peers are already being accused of exceeding their prerogatives. But this is not a money bill. The accusation that its rejection by the Lords would be *ultra vires* under the Parliament Act of 1911 cannot be sustained. As long as there is a revising and delaying upper chamber of Parliament, this is an excellent example of an issue meriting such reconsideration. The duty of peers tonight is to vote according to their consciences, not with one eye on Labour's probably empty threat to deprive them of their seats.

Some crimes are so diabolical that their punishment may not be encompassed by the agencies of human justice. The dead will not be brought back by Act of Parliament. Those who still commit murder and sacrilege against Jews will not be deterred by the inevitably flawed and probably inconclusive trials of a handful of old men. This bill is forty years too late.

## Slimmer forces for 'peace dividend'

From Mr Bruce A. Finch  
Sir, Undoubtedly the most irrational of the current proposals for reductions in the armed forces of the United Kingdom is that of a cut in the combined destroyer/frigate force from 48 to 32.

Currently, though the nominal strength of the Fleet is "about 50", refits, maintenance periods and trials reduce that figure to a realistic 28 available for immediate use. At present a quarter of these 28 is earmarked for use with the Armilla Patrol.

If the proposed reductions did materialize, then — since the actual operational frigate strength would be about 20 — any future operation of the size and duration of the Gulf Patrol would be impossible. Naturally, no combat operation of the type seen in 1982, involving possible losses of ships, could be contemplated. The effect of the reductions would be to leave Britain with little more than a coastal defence force.

At a time when the Government is said to be wishing to give more resources to units such as the Marines and the Paratroopers, whose remit it is to deal with "out of area" crises, are they simultaneously planning to destroy the most effective means of logistical and operational support, the Navy, without which the success of such future operations will be gravely jeopardised?

Sir, it is time that politicians rationally considered the cost of the proposed "peace dividend". If the price is the destruction of one of the most efficient navies in the world, with the consequent loss of ability to influence the Third

World trouble-spots of the future, then it is one that many would consider not worth paying.

Yours faithfully,  
B. A. FINCH,  
University College,  
The Castle, Durham.

From Major-General R. L. T. Burgess

Sir, It is hard to understand why Mr Chichester (May 26) considers the Army should bear the brunt of "forces" reductions. Surely, once the cold war is truly over, the only major role for the Navy and RAF will be to transport units of the Army to wherever they are required.

Major-General Strawson's proposal, printed alongside Mr Chichester's letter, that the Army should revert to its 1939 organization will no doubt raise a storm of protest from the defence technical unit, but no one will quarrel with his assertion that we need plenty of highly versatile infantry battalions.

However, at least one unit has shown itself capable of reaching the peak of flexibility. The Royal Artillery leave their guns behind and time and again have proved themselves first-rate infantry in Northern Ireland.

So far as I know, no infantry battalion has yet got around to manning field or anti-aircraft guns. Perhaps we should have more gunners?

Yours faithfully,  
R. L. T. BURGESS,  
Freemantle,  
Over Wallop,  
Stockbridge, Hampshire.

## Kidney treatment

From Dr Malcolm E. Phillips  
Sir, Your Science Correspondent, Mr Thomson Prentice, drew attention (May 24) to the lack of funding for the new drug erythropoietin, used to treat the severe anaemia from which patients with kidney failure almost inevitably suffer.

This particular problem is representative of a wider dilemma which faces the National Health Service: how should major new advances in treatment be financed?

With reference to funding for renal dialysis and transplantation as a whole, the Department of Health has indicated that regional health authorities must cover the cost of this ever-expanding, high-technology, but life-saving service from their existing budgets.

It is clear that some authorities will not be able to respond satisfactorily to this decision. The North West Thames Regional Health Authority has been able to

allocate a total of only £100,000 towards the cost of treating patients who newly require artificial kidney treatment. The expected cost is nearer £1 million.

This massive discrepancy between funding and actual costs cannot be met by district health authorities, most of whom already have budget deficits. As a consequence, the renal failure services of this region are endangered. Those of us who are medically responsible for these services request that the secretary of state for health, and the department, should stop "passing the buck" for the financing of vital services to authorities which they know are unable to respond.

Yours faithfully,  
MALCOLM PHILLIPS  
(Chairman, North West Thames Regional Renal Interest Group),  
Charing Cross Hospital,  
Fulham Palace Road, SW6.  
May 29.

## Canterbury succession

From the Secretary to the Crown Appointments Commission

Sir, The Reverend David Ellis (May 25) wonders how much prayer goes into the present process for selecting an Archbishop of Canterbury.

The answer is a great deal. The core steps in the process are the same as for any other diocesan appointment in the Church of England, the first being a meeting of the Vacancy-in-See Committee. Almost invariably that body celebrates the Eucharist before beginning its work, and there are prayers at the beginning and end of the actual meeting.

Whenever possible the Crown Appointments Commission itself meets in a religious house, fitting its pattern of work, worship and communal living into that of the host community. The spiritual dimension of its task is never far from its mind.

I think you would find that most people who have actually taken part in the commission's proceedings would unreservedly confirm that the emphasis on worship as an element is a valuable and important corrective to the bustle of speculation that can surround a particular appointment.

The present occasion is unlikely to be different, to say the least.

Yours faithfully,  
HECTOR MCLEAN, Secretary,  
Crown Appointments Commission,  
Flecken House,  
Little College Street, SW1.

## Campus freedoms

From the Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University

Sir, On May 31, Bernard Levin returned to the issue of the conflict of view between the University of Liverpool and the Liverpool University Conservative Association (LUCA) over the responsibilities of the university under Section 43 of the Education (No 2) Act 1986. This section, which deals with freedom of speech in universities, polytechnics and colleges, requires those institutions, *inter alia*

to take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students and employees of the establishment and for visiting speakers.

The conflict arose because in November, 1988, and again in January, 1989, the university withdrew permission for meetings to be held by LUCA at which representatives of the South African Embassy had been invited to speak.

## Abbey Road U-turn?

From Mr Paul Mitchell

Sir, It is significant that Mrs Thatcher and the Beatles crossed Abbey Road, NW8, in opposite directions (photograph, June 1)?

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL MITCHELL,  
8 Kingston Court,  
West Ham, Derby.

## Charitable gifts

From Mrs Audrey Leighton

Sir, Julia Neuburger asks for a charter for regular charity (article, May 28). In a world of doom and gloom it is reassuring to know that people elevate the spirits with their ingenuity, joyfulness and success.

No, Sir, not another red tape committee.

Yours sincerely,  
AUDREY LEIGHTON,  
Greenacres,  
Worplesdon, Surrey.  
May 28.

## Tory compassion

From Mr Robert A. McCrindle

MP for Brentwood and Ongar (Conservative)

Sir, I entirely agree with the tone of John Gray's article ("Tory compassion that would preserve the free market", May 29). The zeal with which the Thatcherite revolution has been implemented in the past decade must now be equalled in such fields as housing, health and education.

That public expectations have risen is a fact which must be addressed if the Conservative Government is to be re-elected. The level and quality of public services must be increased, and if that means foregoing tax reductions in the meantime, then so be it.

In housing we need some imaginative gesture to bridge the gap between those who have been able to join the ranks of home ownership and those who languish on

## Catholic bishops and Irish schools

From Father Martin O'Callaghan

Sir, Mr Tony Spencer (May 21) states that the Catholic bishops are opposed to integrated education and that their opposition is motivated by a desire to wield power over people. He is wrong on both counts.

In fact, when the bishops define and defend the ideals of Catholic education they are simply articulating the preference which the vast majority of Catholic parents express by sending their children to Catholic schools. When Catholics, be they parents or bishops, prefer Catholic education as the best ideal available to them, they are not thereby expressing "opposition" to any other system, any more than those who choose integrated schools are expressing "opposition" to Catholic education.

Indeed, Catholics only claim that they themselves have a right to Catholic education because they believe that all parents, including those who prefer integrated schools, have an inalienable right to choose the form of education which is best for their children.

Mr Spencer also states that the bishops will voice their opposition to integrated education in the High Court. In fact, the statement issued by the bishops last March

makes it very clear that the central grounds for seeking a judicial review are that the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 is contrary to the Northern Ireland Constitution Act (1973), in that it discriminates against a section of the population on grounds of religion.

The order allows trustees of Catholic schools to be divested of property without their consent (in contrast to England and Wales, where the rights of trustees are protected) and is likely to lead to the break-up of the network of Catholic schools, thereby infringing the rights of parents who seek a Catholic education for their children.

Finally, Mr Spencer envisages that the continued existence of separate Catholic education will "perpetuate hatred... (and) undermine every attempt at a political solution". In fact, all the available evidence indicates otherwise. Sociological studies in Northern Ireland (and elsewhere) show that pupils of Catholic schools are more tolerant than pupils of other schools.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN O'CALLAGHAN,  
St Mary's College,  
Trench House,  
Belfast, N. Ireland.  
May 25.

## China anniversary

From Lady Youde

Sir, Since the events in China on June 4, 1989, the Great Britain-China Scholars Emergency Fund has raised over £150,000 to help support over 140 needy Chinese students in Britain since all administrative costs have been met by the Great Britain-China Centre the monies have gone entirely to those in need.

Although some of the students assisted by the fund have now returned to China, the situation there is still uncertain. By the Chinese Government's own admission last month, 431 people are still being detained in relation to the events of last summer. Amnesty International believes the true figure to be far higher. Chinese scholars and students still need our support to continue studying in Britain until they feel able to return.

Yours faithfully,  
PAMELA YOUNG, Chairman,  
Great Britain-China Scholars Emergency Fund,  
15 Belgrave Square, SW1.  
June 1.

## Royal route

From Mr Ian Le Breton

Sir, In two months' time, we shall celebrate the nineteenth birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Could not an important thoroughfare in the capital be renamed to mark the occasion? The road approaching Tower Bridge from the north — at present simply known as Tower Bridge Approach — would appear to be ideal.

Readers might like to suggest the new name. My own proposal: Queen Elizabeth Way.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN LE BRETON,  
9 Stonechat Square, E6.

public-housing waiting lists. On health we really must get to grips with the appalling bureaucracy of the NHS and re-invent at the sharp end of patient care. In the schools we must recognise the low state of morale which is not helped by the state of repair of some of our schools.

When shall we start to see public expenditure as the bonus from a decade of prosperity and something therefore which is positive? Community care and radical improvement of our transport system are areas which Mr Gray rightly pinpoints as in need of positive initiatives; so too are housing, health and education.

It is time Conservatives recognised that, just as trade union reform and privatisation struck a chord in 1989, so the needs of social policy in 1990.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT MCGRINDLE,  
House of Commons.  
May 30.

## Naming the train

From Mrs Pauline M. Perkins

Sir, It is noticeable that in your selection so far of names for the Channel tunnel trains (letters, May 28, 31) there has been no contribution from the hapless inhabitants of Kent — the Garden of England. Perhaps we cannot think of anything printable, or that will not offend the European mainland.

My suggestion is Trojan Horse. It will undoubtedly bring our enemies to our island — terrorists and rabies. The dying words of old John of Gaunt, time-honoured Lancaster, in praise of our scepter'd isle are apposite indeed.

Yours respectfully,  
PAULINE M. PERKINS,  
8 Barclay Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent.

## Once bitten?

From Mr B. H. Parker

Sir, Yesterday you informed us (early editions, May 29) that the hot weather in Surrey had created a mini-tornado of sufficient force to lift up a gardener's bucket and tip it over. Yet only a quarter of a century ago it was reported that conditions were so cold in Norfolk that a bitter joined a bus queue and pecked the leg of a man standing there.

Is there no limit to the turmoil we can expect from all these climatic changes?

Yours sincerely,  
BRIAN PARKER,  
Rook House,  
Victoria Road,  
Dartmouth, Devon.  
May 30.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.













Too young at seven to make their marks? Children at Merlyn Gruffydd School, Cardiff, undergo one of the trials teachers fear will result in more bureaucracy

## New tests fail the grade

The news that a head teacher would rather break the law than subject her seven-year-old pupils to a test required by the Government's education reforms will dismay the School Examinations and Assessment Council (SEAC) and the Department of Education but cheer many parents and teachers.

Pat Moss, of Redscope Infants School, in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, told the National Association of Head Teachers' annual conference, at Torquay last week, that the trial tests required at her school were unacceptable. "If next year's tests in any way resemble the pilot ones," she said, "my conscience and my principles will not allow me to let them take place."

For five weeks, 23,000 children at 641 primary schools in England and Wales have been working their way through standard assessment tests (SATs) provided by three consortiums of publishers, examination boards and research bodies. The consortiums have been given a total of £6.1 million to develop methods of testing pupils against national curriculum attainment targets in mathematics, English and science at the age of seven. Under the national curriculum, pupils will be assessed formally at seven, 11, 14 and 16. The testing programme for all seven-year-olds is to start in earnest next year.

The form of the tests has been the subject of much political debate. The Prime Minister has said she favours simple pencil-and-paper tests imposing minimal burdens on teachers. After what insiders say was a "vigorous debate", she relented and allowed Kenneth Baker, then Education Secretary,

Doubts are growing as three separate groups try to devise exams to assess the progress of seven-year-olds studying the national curriculum, Douglas Broom reports

to opt for a more complex approach. Mr Baker appointed the three consortiums, representing between them the very "educational establishment" whose grip on educational policy-making he had tried to loosen by his parent-power reforms.

The complexity of the tests and official attempts to maintain a strict veil of secrecy over their trials may yet lead to a call for something more simple and more to Mrs Thatcher's taste.

All three groups insist their SATs are designed to be as little like traditional school tests as possible, involving pupils in short projects assessed by teachers, who then report back to the group. They have also claimed they will fit in with normal teaching in a way that will ease burdens on teachers.

In reality, all are complex, one ferociously so. The scheme drawn up by the consortium led by Manchester University uses 450 separate SATs. Teachers have to write a profile of every pupil in the class before the process begins. The teachers' reports are then analysed centrally by the Manchester Consortium, which issues separate SATs for every pupil, based on his or her strengths and weaknesses. Teachers then face the near-impossible task of running separate projects for up to 35 pupils simultaneously.

Rita Missing, the headmistress of the Bramley Sunnyside Infants' School at

Rotherham, one of the pilot schools, last week broke the official imposed code of silence.

The consortium headed by the National Foundation for Education Research, at Slough, Berkshire, has refused to name the schools taking part and banned them from discussing the SATs with the Press. Mrs Missing, though she had volunteered to take part in the foundation's trial, believed she could stay silent no longer. "It is a wicked waste of money," she said. "It tells us nothing we do not know already and puts pressure on both children and teachers. Some of the children were crying. What we need is assessment by teachers. It is insulting to suggest that teachers cannot be trusted to judge their own pupils."

Mrs Missing's frustration with the SATs is reflected in a survey by the National Union of Teachers among members at 10 of the pilot schools. Michael Barber, the union's education officer, says: "We believe very strongly that the way in which a major educational innovation is being developed behind a cloak of secrecy is completely wrong. What is clear, even from this small sample, is that the pilot SATs are generating enormous amounts of work for teachers."

Most teachers interviewed by the union considered SATs irrelevant to their schools' daily work and said they were discovering nothing a competent teacher could not have

found by normal assessment methods.

One of the consortiums had banned parents from a school while the SATs were in progress, prompting inevitable protests from parents and making a mockery of suggestions that SATs would fit seamlessly into the school year.

Mr Barber says: "To suggest that this can be done without the children knowing is absurd. Children of seven are perfectly well aware of what is going on."

The union now says assessment should be left to teachers and their marks checked externally, just as GCSE course-work marks are by examination boards.

Chris Wetton, the head of assessment at the foundation, accepts that there have been problems but says that, overall, children have responded positively to the pilot SATs. "In some schools," he says, "children have asked their teachers whether they can go on doing the work after the assessment period is over. The material itself has been well-received. One of the reasons for the future is that though teachers may have read statements of attainment, they are having to come to grips with them in the classroom for the first time."

"If people are unhappy, there is a possible trade-off. We could make the assessment simpler but that would mean abandoning the cross-curricular approach."

The pilot project's results will now be studied by the Department of Education, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools and SEAC. Their conclusions will be announced in the autumn and the final form of the official tests to be taken by all seven-year-olds should be known by Christmas.

### NOTICEBOARD

#### Opting out in the open

OPTING OUT of local authority control is now a much less furtive affair than it used to be, says the headmaster of one of the first schools to seek independence. Graham Locke, at Audenshaw High School for Boys, in Tameside, Greater Manchester, is now seen as a leading proponent of what was perhaps one of the most controversial of the Government's education reforms.

The Labour-controlled local authority did all it could to thwart the wishes of parents, who saw grant-maintained status as the only way to prevent closure of a school.

Mr Locke, who clearly enjoys his new freedom, says that after a quiet period there has been a renewed interest in opting out. There are now 40 grant-maintained schools, a further six will open in September, and another 100 are in the pipeline.

"I am now receiving calls from quite substantial schools, that I would never have expected to consider it, to ask me about opting out," Mr Locke says.

"With the local management of schools coming on stream, heads and governors are seeing opting out as a way of tapping more money."

It is not quite the same furtive operation that it was in the early days. People are much more open now.

Mr Locke's own championing of the cause has not found favour with all his fellow heads, many of whom are implacably opposed to the idea. He, however, is unrepentant: "One has to accept that it is one of the most controversial parts of the 1988 Education Reform Act. Only time will tell whether it is a vision of the future or something that will never really take off. It is just a different way of delivering state education. What's wrong with questioning what has become established practice?"

#### Taste of the City

WOULD-BE accountants have a chance to see whether they would really like a life in the City by joining a work-shadow scheme offered by Peat Marwick McLintock. The attachment to the firm allows graduates to see business advisers at work and carries a £50 allowance for expenses - payable at the end of the four days.

The firm says the demand for its summer scheme is so high that it is now planning extra programmes in the Christmas and Easter holidays. The company says 39 per cent of its recruits last year would have liked to take part in the scheme before they joined the staff.

#### Female leads

GIRLS, it is claimed, need extra encouragement to take advantage of all the opportunities offered by the falling birth rate to play key roles in public and professional life.

The Sheffield-based 300 Group Educational Trust has prepared a pilot package, which it is sending to the heads of 50 secondary schools. The trust hopes to encourage heads and girls to set up debating societies, serve on committees, support initiatives and prepare for political and public life.

The trust says: "There are sound economic as well as social reasons why the abilities of girls must be utilized more fully. By the mid-1990s the scarcity of highly trained workers will give girls a unique opportunity to fulfil aspirations of leadership in every aspect of public, commercial and academic life."

#### Helping hands

FINAL-YEAR engineering students at Nottingham Polytechnic are now going out into local schools to help fourth-formers and fifth-formers to prepare for the GCSE.

The "proctoring" scheme began with students helping first-year and second-year undergraduates to come to grips with the course and is now an integral part of the degree and Higher National Diploma at the polytechnic.

Professor Bryan Button says: "It is vital that, as well as gaining academic qualifications, our students can display personal qualities such as communication, leadership, confidence, co-operation and organization."

#### Big on classics

THE BIGGEST centre for classics in the country will be opened in Cambridge on June 16. Dr Mary Beard, the director of studies at Newnham College, says: "The building will be a centre for classics as a whole, not just a place for teaching undergraduates classics."

DAVID TYTLER  
Education Editor

071-481 1066

## EDUCATIONAL

071-481 1066

### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

#### WARWICK BUSINESS SCHOOL CENTRE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

The continued expansion of the S.M.E. Centre's activities has created excellent opportunities for high calibre staff in the following posts:

#### Lecturer in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Management (Re-advertisement)

To take particular responsibility for developing a new under-graduate course in entrepreneurship.

Applicants should have a good Honours degree in Management, Economics or related discipline and/or have professional qualifications.

The person appointed will be expected to supplement Warwick Business School's reputation for excellence in research. He or she will be expected to participate actively within the Centre's research activities.

Appointment will be on the Lecturer Grade B scale: £16,014 - £20,469 p.a. (under review) for three years in the first instance.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor David Storey on 0203-523692 or the Director of the S.M.E. Centre, Ian Watson on 0203-523741, extension 2233.

Previous applicants need not re-apply.

Ref: 43-1A/897

#### National Westminster Bank PLC Senior Research Fellow

National Westminster Bank have endowed the S.M.E. Centre with a Senior Research Fellowship in Small Business. The Fellowship will be for three years in the first instance.

The Fellow will work in conjunction with Professor David Storey on an analysis of the characteristics of those individuals starting in business as clients of National Westminster Bank.

The Fellow will be expected to have a strong quantitative background in Industrial or Financial Economics or similar research discipline and be capable of handling very large computerised data sets.

The Fellowship represents an exciting opportunity for a high-profile research career and will appeal to those wishing to join a small and highly motivated research team.

Appointment will be on the Research Grade II: £15,372 - £20,469 p.a. (under review).

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor David Storey on 0203-523692.

Ref: 43-5A/897

Application forms (returnable by 26th June 1990) and further particulars from the Personnel Office, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL. Telephone: 0203 523627 quoting the appropriate reference number (please mark clearly on envelope).

An equal opportunities employer.



### University of Nottingham

#### Readership in Computer Science

As part of a phased expansion over the next two years, the Department of Computer Science is seeking to fill a newly-established post of Reader. Applications are invited from candidates with a proven record of achievement in any aspect of Computer Science, but the post may be of particular interest to candidates wishing to complement the expertise of the Department's established research groups in the areas of Drawing Recognition, Networking and Electronic Publishing.

The salary will be at an appropriate point of the Senior Lecturer/Reader Scale £21,489 - £24,285 per annum (under review).

For details of this post and of the University, together with conditions of appointment and application form, returnable not later than 20 June 1990, from The Personnel Office, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. Tel 0602 484848 ext 2696. Ref No 1342.



#### LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE (University of London)

#### DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY & POPULATION SCIENCES

STARTING SALARY IN THE RANGE  
£11,583 to £14,148 (under review)

This post has been created to provide a high level of administrative support for the new Head of the Department of Epidemiology & Population Sciences, Professor Peter Smith. Activities in the Department include epidemiology, statistics and demography with respect to disease problems in both developed and developing countries. Duties will include responsibility for the administration of departmental services, supervision of budgets and research contracts, maintenance of appropriate staff records (including publications), and advice on space allocation issues. The post holder will liaise closely with central administration and with academic staff in the Department. Candidates must have strong organizational skills, with an appropriate background in administration and/or financial management.

Further particulars from the Personnel Office, LSHTM, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, telephone 071-638 8836 (ext 420), fax 071-436 5389 to whom applications should be submitted by 6 July 1990 quoting ref P51. Applications (no formal) should include a full career record and the names and addresses of three referees who may be approached immediately.



#### KING'S COLLEGE LONDON 2 JOINT LECTURESHIPS IN NURSING

These posts have been created to support the "Protect 2000" scheme, commenced in 1988. Candidates should have a good professional and academic background with a minimum of a postgraduate diploma or a first class honours degree in nursing. They would be expected to contribute to the development of the department and help with the total range of activities from undergraduate and postgraduate teaching to clinical supervision.

Salary on scale Lecturer "a" £16,014-£20,469 per annum (under review) plus £1,767 per annum for research. Allowance and is according to experience and to the post. Applications should be sent to the Personnel Office, King's College London, 100 Strand, London WC2R 2LS. Tel 071 836 6454 ext 3010.

For application form and further particulars write to: Administration, King's College London, Department of Nursing Studies, 100 Strand, London WC2R 2LS. Tel 071 836 6454 ext 3020.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 22nd June 1990.

#### THE ACADEMIC SECRETARY

Salary will be within Grade 6 for Administrative Staff (minimum £27,013 p.a., from 1 May, 1990) and will be determined in accordance with the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Applications are invited for the post of Academic Secretary, which will become vacant with effect from 1 October, 1990 arising from the appointment of the present incumbent to the post of Registrar. Candidates should have appropriate experience of University governance and administration.

Quote ref: RV/716/TM

Closing date: 29 June, 1990

Applications, by c.v. with the names of three referees, should be received by the Director of Staffing Services (AS), The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

#### University of LIVERPOOL AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

#### UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM Lecturer in Social Studies

Applications are invited from men and women for a Lectureship in Law (tenable for five years from 1 October 1990 or as soon as possible thereafter). The successful applicant will be required to teach undergraduates for about twelve hours a week during Full Term. According to experience, the highest will be within the University Assistant Lecturer scale (salary award pending).

Further particulars may be obtained from the Principal, Nottingham College, Cambridge.

Applications should be sent to the Director of Staffing Services (AS), The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

The closing date for applications is 29 June 1990

University of Glasgow

Department of Mathematics

Lectureship in Mathematics

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Mathematics, in the Department of Mathematics, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, to be held from 1 October 1990. The successful candidate will be given to applicants who have a first class honours degree in Mathematics, a statement of curriculum vitae, a statement of current research interests and the names of two referees.

Further details and application forms are available from the Department of Mathematics, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, to whom applications should be sent by 29 June 1990.

In reply please quote ref. no. 097001

#### NEWHAM COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

College Lectureship in Law

Applications are invited from men and women for a Lectureship in Law (tenable for five years from 1 October 1990 or as soon as possible thereafter). The successful applicant will be required to teach undergraduates for about twelve hours a week during Full Term. According to experience, the highest will be within the University Assistant Lecturer scale (salary award pending).

Further particulars may be obtained from the Principal, Newham College, Cambridge.

Applications should be sent to the Director of Staffing Services (AS), The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

The closing date for applications is 29 June 1990

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Department of Mathematics

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In reply please quote ref. no. 097001

University of Liverpool

Department of Mathematics

Lectureship in Mathematics

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Mathematics, in the Department of Mathematics, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 3GB, to be held from 1 October 1990. The successful candidate will be given to applicants who have a first class honours degree in Mathematics, a statement of curriculum vitae, a statement of current research interests and the names of two referees.

Further details and application forms are available from the Department of Mathematics, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 3GB, to whom applications should be sent by 29 June 1990.

In reply please quote ref. no. 097001

University of Nottingham

Department of Mathematics

Lectureship in Mathematics

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Mathematics, in the Department of Mathematics, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RD, to be held from 1 October 1990. The successful candidate will be given to applicants who have a first class honours degree in Mathematics, a statement of curriculum vitae, a statement of current research interests and the names of two referees.

Further details and application forms are available from the Department of Mathematics, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RD, to whom applications should be sent by 29 June 1990.

In reply please quote ref. no. 097001

### LECTURERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

#### Lecturer in Composite Materials Engineering

A vacancy exists under the New Academic Appointments Scheme for a Lecturer with industrial and research experience in modern composite materials. The duties include involvement with the work of the newly formed Composites Club and Composites Institute in the Faculty of Engineering. Applicants should have a good honours degree in Engineering, a PhD and research or development experience of three reinforced composite materials. Interested persons may discuss the appointment with Professor M J Owen on 0602 484848 ext 3527.

**Lecturer**  
The successful candidate will be expected to strengthen the broad research and teaching activities of the Department. The ability and potential of applicants are more important than the subject area of experience, but interest in fluid mechanics, heat transfer, or thermodynamics would be most advantageous. Facilities and opportunities for research are excellent and the new lecturer will be encouraged to develop further own interests or to join an established group within the Department.

Salary within the range £10,458-£20,469 per annum (under review). Further details and applications forms, returnable not later than 29 June 1990, from the Personnel Office, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD (tel 0602 484848 ext 3555). Ref No. 1541.

### RESEARCH POSTS

#### GIRTON COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE ROLLS-ROYCE SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN ENGINEERING

Girton College invite applications for a Senior Research Fellow to work in a group on the aerodynamic problems of low pressure turbines in aircraft engines. This is part of a programme of research sponsored by Rolls Royce Plc, and the successful applicant will be expected to oversee the programme as well as to contribute directly to it. The applicant should have experience of aerodynamics, of fluid mechanics and be familiar with modern experimental and computational methods. Previous experience of turbine aerodynamics design is desirable but not essential. The Fellowship will involve liaison between Rolls Royce engineers and research workers in the University; applicants with industrial experience would find it an advantage.

The tenure of the Fellowship will be for three years from 1 October 1990. The Fellowship which carries free residence in College and free commons throughout the year (save when the College closes during Christmas) has a stipend of £15,000 per annum pensionable under USS if the applicant so wishes. Any fees that are payable to the University will be funded by the Fellowship fund.

The Fellow's research will be based at the Whittle Laboratory which is situated on the outskirts of Cambridge on the same side as the College. The laboratory enjoys an international reputation for research on turbomachinery aerodynamic and has excellent experimental and computational facilities.

Further particulars and application forms are available from the Secretary to the Council, Girton College, Cambridge CB3 0JG, to whom applications should be sent by 1 July 1990.

0481 1066



ROLLS-ROYCE

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

IN ENGINEERING

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In reply please quote ref. no. 097001

University of Liverpool

Department of Mathematics

Lectureship in Mathematics

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Mathematics, in the Department of Mathematics, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 3GB, to be held from 1 October 1990. The successful candidate will be given to applicants who have a first class honours degree in Mathematics, a statement of curriculum vitae, a statement of current research interests and the names of two referees.

Further details and application forms are available from the Department of Mathematics, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 3GB, to whom applications should be sent by 29 June 1990.

In reply please quote ref. no. 097001

University of Nottingham

Department of Mathematics

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University of Liverpool



## EDUCATION

## Managing director or teacher?

The obvious attractions of small schools carry a price for their overworked heads, David Tytler writes

Of all the 30,000 schools in England and Wales, the small school presents the biggest collection of problems for head teachers.

They teach regularly, they manage, they fill in when staff are off and still they stay. Parents love small schools and teachers who work in them are reluctant to do anything else.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), which represents 30,000 heads, and deputies, defines the small school as one that has up to 150 pupils. Most are rural primaries, but some are in urban areas.

Lancashire has one rural secondary school with 180 pupils. Joe Dooley, the head of the 80-pupil Pilling Moss Roman Catholic Primary School on the outskirts of Preston, Lancashire, illustrates the dilemma facing all heads of small schools — some of them with only a handful of pupils.

"I chose to teach full-time but it was Hobson's choice. The alternative was mixed-age classes of five to seven and nine to 11 of up to 30 pupils and I do not consider that acceptable," Mr Dooley says.

He has two full-time teachers and a third working two-and-a-half days. He says he has always taught, as well as managed the school, and will continue to do.

However, government education reforms have added to the time he spends on administration, planning lessons for the national curriculum, writing a school plan and compiling compulsory statistics for the Department of Education and Science (DES).

Mr Dooley says: "We have to do the same amount of paperwork as the heads of larger schools but they either have more secretarial help or do little teaching themselves. It means doing a lot yourself or overloading somebody else."

Pat Partington, the head of a large primary school in Beeston, Nottinghamshire, and chairman of the NAHT committee on school management, has every sympathy for the heads of small schools. Mrs Partington says:

"They face the double burden of teaching and managing. Teaching heads will be judged against the tests that only teaching heads who can devote all their time to management. A small school does everything a large school does without the backup."

Arthur Wade has been the head of the 150-pupil Newlands School in Sowerby Bridge, Halifax, since 1974. He has five primary classes taught by himself, four other teachers and a part-timer who works the half of the week he is not teaching.

Mr Wade illustrates the difficulties caused by the lack of a full-time secretary. "My secretary works two-and-a-half days a week," he says. "So, if a parent phones when she is not there and



Village focus: Headmaster Andy Slater with some of the 69 pupils at Salterlee Junior and Infants School, Yorkshire

I am not available, the cook takes the phone call — which is not really the cook's job."

Like all state school heads, Mr Wade faces problems in finding supply teachers to cover for absent staff. "I have made 100 calls to find one supply teacher but if a teacher is absent when I am not due to be teaching, I am the supply teacher," he says.

Mr Partington underlines the point, saying: "If one of the teachers is away unexpectedly in a small school, it becomes a disaster. Heads cannot cover and they cannot split classes as larger schools do in an emergency."

Mixed-age classes present particular problems under the national curriculum. In a class of five to seven year-olds, for example, half the class will be

doing their legally required standard assessment tests while the remainder have only started the curriculum. Mrs Partington fears that in such a class, a teacher will be so concerned about the tests that she will neglect the rest of the children.

Handling the tight demands of the curriculum in subjects such as history and geography will also be a problem. It would have been possible to combine them for mixed ages but now the Government demands that children learn certain things at specific ages. Despite the difficulties, all three are firm supporters of the small school and are convinced parents should support them. They say the Government must provide the money to help them keep the service the parents expect.

Mr Dooley, a head teacher for 20 years, says that whenever a

local authority has threatened to close his school the parents have fought off the plans. "It is not up to us to fight the closure of a small school," he says. "The parents will do that for us. The schools serve the community and should not close. They are a focal point — they are everything in a village."

The mother of two children at a small school in Kent with about 70 pupils says: "The county council wants to close the school. We are fighting. We need the school, and without it, the village will die. First, the shop will close, then people will leave."

Mr Dooley recognizes the significance of the small school in village life. He says: "There is a special relationship with parents and the school becomes a community formed by the parents, teachers and children."

## Think about it, and we could all be brighter

A Scottish lecturer believes that the development of children depends on their happiness

Brian Hill believes that intelligence is a state of mind. More than 500 teenagers have come to share the view as they have overcome everything from dyslexia to bed-wetting by gaining confidence in themselves.

Mr Hill, who founded the private fee-paying Edinburgh Centre for Accelerated Learning three years ago, has had to cope with a sceptical teaching profession.

One parent told him that the reaction of teachers at her son's school had undone much of the good that his mixture of psychotherapy and common sense had achieved.

Despite media coverage in Mr Hill's native Scotland, few parents south of the border have heard of his work. Last week he held a series of sessions in Aldershot, Hampshire. One mother, whose teenage son showed a marked improvement after one 20-minute session with Mr Hill, was full of praise. "We were very impressed. Our son came out able to multiply 12 by 19 and to spell psychiatrist forwards and backwards. He has never been any good at school, but he came out feeling he could do things," Mr Hill, who emphasized that his work was still "developmental", said his technique was based on standard psychotherapeutic techniques laced with a mixture of intuition and common sense. He makes extensive use of Neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP), a technique developed in the United States in the early 1970s by scientists who set out to study what made their most brilliant colleagues tick.

Professors John Grinder and Richard Bandler, by observing three eminent psychotherapists, realized that their success was based on the way in which they behaved with clients. By subtly mimicking the behaviour of clients, the psychotherapists put them at their ease.

They also responded to the slightest physical signals given out by clients. Analysis of their findings led the professors to construct a "model" to guide the conduct of other therapists. When used, it produced the same excellent results that the three men in the original study had achieved.

Mr Hill uses NLP techniques to help his teenage clients, including an "internal eye scan". People move their eyes in certain ways when about to recall something and so clients can be taught, for instance, to look up to the left to remember a chemical formula.

NLP is also about controlling one's state of mind to ease tension and remove fear. It is being taught in Britain to sales people and senior executives as a way of improving their performance.

However, when one cuts through the jargon, a lot of what Mr Hill is doing involves tackling unhappiness. He is the first to agree that happiness is the basis of self-confidence and that lack of self-esteem is at the root of most educational failure. By showing children that what they have come to consider an attribute of innate intelligence — for example, a facility with figures — can be learnt, he can remove their sense of worthlessness.

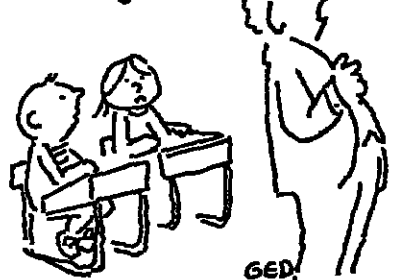
Mr Hill says: "Children believe they are stupid, and our society reinforces that because it equates knowledge with intelligence. The under-achiever then comes to have a low opinion of himself." Clearly, however, Mr Hill is not afraid to tell parents that it may be their unreasonable expectations that may have contributed to a child's poor performance. Kindness may not cure deep-seated psychological problems, but it will bring out the best in children. Parents are naturally unwilling to talk about such sensitive issues, but one mother confided that she thought her husband's attitude to her son may have contributed to his failure. The man was disappointed when his son failed to live up to his own high standards.

Few lay people could, or would want to, argue with psychotherapists and neuroscientists about the processes that shape our intelligence. However many parents will agree with Mr Hill's basic assumption that a bright child is a happy child.

DOUGLAS BROOM  
Education Reporter

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Closing date  
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Continued  
on page 27



# A stride forward for the back

Should chiropractic be available on the NHS to help the millions of back pain sufferers in Britain? Lee Rodwell reports

Daniel D. Palmer must be smiling in his grave. Chiropractic — the therapy he worked so hard to establish — has now been hailed as more effective than hospital treatment for back pain and calls have been made for it to be available on the National Health.

Chiropractic was founded by Mr Palmer in America in 1895 after he treated a janitor who worked in his building. The man had been deaf for many years after bending over awkwardly one day and feeling something "give" in his back. Mr Palmer found and replaced a misaligned vertebra — and cured the janitor's deafness. From then on, Mr Palmer devoted his life to researching and working for recognition of the therapy he developed out of this case.

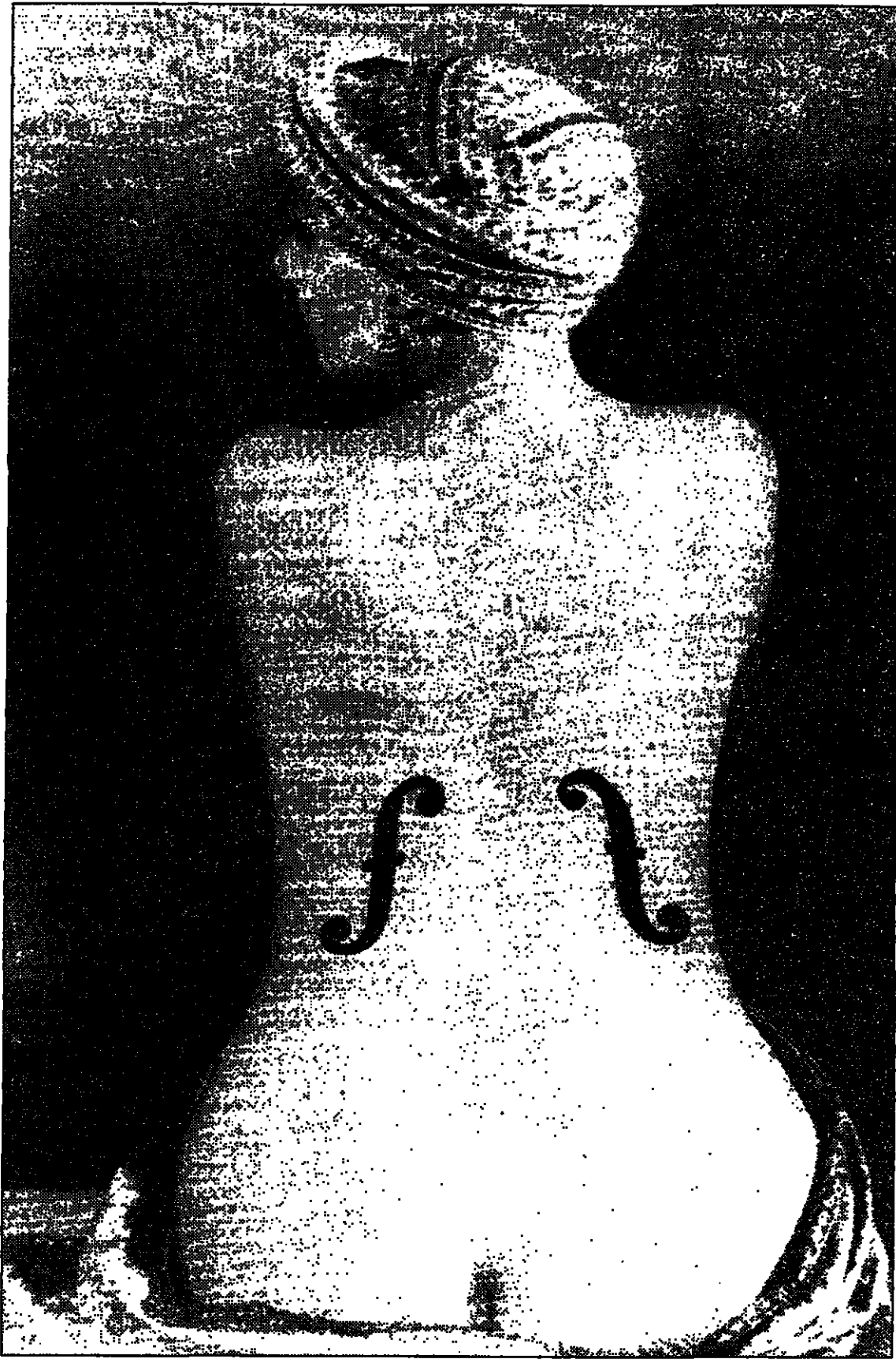
Now a study of more than 700 patients, carried out by the Medical Research Council's epidemiology and medical care unit at Northwick Park Hospital, Middlesex, appears to justify Palmer's beliefs. Patients were randomly assigned to chiropractors or hospital clinics and the results, published last week in the *British Medical Journal*, show that after treatment began, those receiving chiropractic had improved by 70 per cent more than those given hospital out-patient treatment.

The studies also argue that the greater cost of chiropractic treatment (almost 50 per cent) would be more than offset by long-term savings. There would be fewer days on sick leave and a £2.9 million reduction in social security payments.

At present anyone seeking chiropractic — or osteopathy, the other alternative form of manipulative therapy — has to pay for it privately, although some medical insurance policies cover the fees if a patient is referred by a doctor. The average cost of a 15 to 30-minute chiropractic session is £15; osteopaths charge £14 to £18 for a half-hour session in the provinces, while prices in the West End can be as high as £50.

So should chiropractic or, for that matter, osteopathy be available on the NHS? There is no doubt that back pain is widespread and costly. According to the National Back Pain Association, statistics have been less easy to come by since self-certification was introduced. However, figures for 1987-88 show that in Britain 46.5 million working days were lost through back pain, an increase of 40 per cent over the figures for five years earlier.

Dr John Tanner, a practitioner in orthopaedic medicine, reviewed a



Art of the problem: Man Ray's musical focus on a delicate area (Thames and Hudson)

variety of world-wide surveys and statistics for his book *Beating Back Pain*, which is published by Dorling Kindersley. He says that certain common findings emerge. "It is estimated that between 60 and 80 per cent of the population in the average industrialized country suffer from back pain at some time and

that in half of these, the problem will recur." Although men take more time off from work than women because of back trouble (627 days per 1,000 males are lost from work annually, compared with 347 days per 1,000 females) this does not necessarily mean men suffer from back pain

more than women. Housewives do not take time off from paid work and so fail to show in the statistics for benefit claims. However, Dr Tanner says: "Women seem to be slightly more prone to back pain than men. The cause of this is not known, but pregnancy, childbirth and child

rearing may take their toll on the spine.

Any discussion on the benefits of various forms of manipulative therapy always runs into trouble when it comes to explaining the distinctions between osteopathy and chiropractic.

Dr Tanner's book says that "the difference between osteopathy and chiropractic is quite subtle". *The Alternative Dictionary of Symptoms and Cures* by Dr Caroline Shreeve, published by Century Hutchinson, says "the chief differences between chiropractic and osteopathy are now said to be mainly academic".

Even Graham Mason, a practising osteopath and spokesman for the General Council and Register of Osteopaths, says: "I don't think there is a lot of difference."

However Miss Jatinder Benepal, of the British Chiropractic Association, insists that their training is different; that the moves chiropractors use in manipulation are different and that chiropractors place more emphasis on the use of X-rays for diagnosis.

Throughout the world, chiropractic is better established than osteopathy. Only in Britain is the situation reversed, with 1,400 registered osteopaths to 350 chiropractors. Miss Benepal says: "I suspect osteopathy became fashionable because of the Profumo scandal — no one had heard of it until they read about Stephen Ward."

The MRC results could not have come at better time for the chiropractors. Within the last 18 months the college which trains their practitioners has been given degree course recognition and the Princess of Wales has agreed to become its patron. The survey has given them further publicity. But would chiropractors like to become part of the NHS?

Miss Benepal supports the idea that chiropractic should be widely available but says that practitioners would prefer to remain independent. "We are a primary contact profession and want people to be able to come to see us without having to see a doctor first. On the other hand, we would welcome GPs referring National Health patients to us."

Mr Mason says osteopaths agree. "We would prefer our autonomy, with GPs referring people to us, as sub-contractors, rather than becoming part of the National Health Service and working within hospitals."

Chiropractors and osteopaths agree that joining the NHS is the least of their concerns. Unfortunately there is no legal requirement for would-be practitioners in either therapy to undergo training of any kind.

As Mr Mason says: "Far more important than the question of whether we want to be part of the NHS or not is whether the Government is going to pass some form of statute to regulate the training and practise of osteopathy or chiropractic." Miss Benepal adds: "We want legislation. The public deserves that kind of protection."

## The girl they left behind

The original first mate of the Maiden stayed ashore — how does she feel now?



Beached: Marie-Claude Kieffer, fell out with Tracy

Marie-Claude Kieffer was not among the 10,000 well-wishers who cheered the yacht Maiden and her female crew across the finishing line at Southampton last week.

Instead, she was sharing a haddock and prawn pie with her boyfriend in a pub at Hamble. She had mixed feelings over the Maiden's triumphs over the 33,000-mile Whitbread Round The World Race, in which the vessel finished second in her class and 18th of the 23 entrants.

Miss Kieffer was Maiden's original first mate. She says she was fired by Tracy Edwards, the British skipper, after two years of preparation for the race and only three weeks before its start last September.

At the time, Miss Edwards said of their parting: "We have very different ways of sailing and we would never have been able to get on together. She was much more willing to take risks, whereas I am a more cautious sailor. It would never have worked out and it was better to part company before we set off."

Miss Kieffer, a 30-year-old French yachtswoman who is now preparing for her solo entry in next month's Figaro race, recalled her feelings: "It was a bit of a shock but no real surprise. I knew that it could happen but I didn't expect it to happen at that moment."

"There was no actual fight between Tracy and myself, no disagreement. It was more a lack of confidence on her part. I was sure of myself on the boat and she wasn't. She was feeling less and less in charge of her own boat. I was becoming too important. Maybe if I had shut my mouth a bit more I could have stayed on the boat, but I think I wouldn't have been happy."

Miss Kieffer echoed Miss Edwards' view of their different attitudes towards taking risks. "But that was just an excuse. It was basically a lack of communication because we both knew there was a problem but we never discussed it. I could see she was unhappy. One of us had to give in and it had to be me."

She is critical of Maiden's performance in the race, even though the women completed the course. "They

should have done much better," Miss Kieffer said. "They shouldn't have arrived that much behind." Would her presence have improved matters? "Definitely. There are two things involved — the way of racing the boat on deck and the navigation down below. Tracy was doing the navigating and I was racing the boat."

Miss Kieffer was born in Brest, one of five children of doctors who are keen sailors. She went to sailing school when she was eight years old. By the time she was 15 she was racing her father's yacht. She began racing professionally five years later when she dropped out of university after a disagreement with her English teacher. Even in those days she was, she admits, a bit of a rebel. Her greatest success so far was in the 1985 Transatlantic Race, when she was one of the winning crew of seven women and five men in the monohull class.

Despite her disappointment at not being part of Maiden's crew, she believes that she still gained from the two years she spent preparing for the race. She is planning to compete in 10 races this season. She and her boyfriend, British yachtswoman Paul Stauder, would like to enter a double-handed race, and she wants to take part in the next Whitbread race. She is on the payroll of the French champion yachtswoman and businessman Lionel Pean, earning £750 a month as skipper of one of his four yachts.

She says that being a woman is a terrible disadvantage in sailing, "like being born with a leg missing. We are still a very rare breed. To cope you have got to be passionate because if you aren't it's horrible — wet miserable — and not very feminine."

She says she and Miss Edwards have since made up. "We were both at a small private party in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, during a stop-over in April and I was drunk enough to go up to her and say 'come on, this is getting a bit silly'."

"We just spoke really freely about it and she sort of apologized and said it was a silly decision caused by lack of communication. She suggested we sail together in the next Whitbread. I didn't say anything."

SALLY BROMPTON

### A COMPLAINT MORE COMMON THAN A COLD — AND THE WORST PAIN I HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED

For several weeks, I had suspected that my cramps and twinges must be building up to something. Finally, on the morning of Good Friday, it happened. Pain, worse than any I had experienced, shot through my lower back. I felt as though my left leg had been wrenched off at the hip, and I was immobilized — in the bath.

A Bank Holiday is a bad time to have a medical emergency, so I lay on the floor for a couple of days, awash with soluble aspirin, until someone could drive me to a doctor. Tens of millions of people in the United Kingdom suffer back pain, and from his evident lack of excitement about my case, it seemed that my GP had seen most of them.

After testing my much-reduced reflexes and glancing at my spine, he prescribed ibuprofen and a fortnight's bed-rest. When I protested, he offered me tranquilizers. My condition, more common than the cold, had apparently defeated mainstream medical science.

I was then introduced to chiropractic by a friend who

had suffered a severe whiplash injury in a car crash. My complaint, according to the Reader's Digest *Family Health Encyclopaedia*, was a slipped disc, causing acute sciatica. But there were complications. From X-rays taken at my first consultation, the chiropractor diagnosed a congenital imperfection to which I had been oblivious for 22 years — a pronounced curvature of the lumbar vertebrae. For a while, he also thought my left leg was considerably shorter than the other, but later decided that this was the result of what chiropractors call a Category III Subluxation — or rotation — of the pelvis, by nearly an inch from its normal position. Chiropractic is literally "hands-on" medicine, and its effects can sometimes seem miraculous. After a single session, I felt healed. By gently

prodding "pressure points" on the crown of my head, between my shoulders and behind my ears, the chiropractor released muscle spasms in my back which had folded me in half for two weeks.

He also employed less subtle techniques — twisting my neck to "crack" open the joints, crunching my spine and thrusting one knee towards my face while I lay on my side, which broke through pain barriers even Jane Fonda in her most complicated manoeuvres cannot have explored. But the pain was momentary, and I usually emerged from the clinic at the end of each 15-minute session in a state of physical and mental relaxation close to euphoria. In fact, the strangest sensation is probably that of being swept off one's feet and lifted into a horizontal position by the electrically-powered

couch on which spinal adjustments are performed.

Together with an emphasis on holistic healing, a key element of the chiropractic creed is the importance of spinal management. This entails a good deal of self-help, involving bags of frozen peas applied to the centres of pain, and regular visits to the practitioner as a preventive measure. I was sufficiently rehabilitated to return to work full-time after a month in which I received treatment three times a week, and now I go back to the clinic fortnightly. This level of after-care should not be necessary for long, and I am reliably informed that without the treatment, I would now be queuing for orthopaedic surgery, which puts my expenditure of about £300 so far into perspective.

LESLY JUKES

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**  
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## ARTS

## THEATRE

## Rhyming reason

Robert Gore Langton meets Ranjit Bolt,  
translator of Corneille and Molière

Writer Ranjit Bolt is an investment adviser by day, but by night he translates 17th-century French dramatic verse. Bolt started out translating for fun, staging a Molière on the Fringe, and sending off a translation of a Corneille comedy to Jonathan Miller, "on spec". Miller was sufficiently impressed to stage the play with a superb cast at the Old Vic. *The Liar* proved a runaway hit and the critics hailed Bolt as the best thing to have happened to translation since Tony Harrison.

Strangely, it was at the Old Vic as a schoolboy, aged 15, that Bolt was smitten by Harrison's version of *Le Misanthrope*. Ever since, all he has wanted to do is to translate French comedy. Now *The Illusion*, Bolt's second Corneille, is about to open at the same Old Vic, directed by Richard Jones.

"*The Illusion* is a weird and way out thing," says this flamboyant, pin-striped nephew of Robert Bolt. "It's extraordinarily reminiscent of *The Tempest*, which I think Corneille must have seen. You've got magic generating the plot. An old man tries to find his son, he goes to see a wizard who conjures up the life of his son as he now is — an actor in a tragedy. It's a play within a play within a play within a play. It's very much about the nature of appearance and reality — about theatre itself — which also gives it a terrific visual potential."

This is all fine. But do Bolt's business clients get any attention, what with the demands of his curious hobby? "Oh yes. It's only in the evenings that I 'knit'. I go home and do 20-30 lines. For a comedy that's about 60 days' work, remembering that I've got a fiancée and two cats. The first discipline is getting the stuff done every night, no matter how you're feeling and second, chucking half of it away. It's rather like a series of crossword clues; there's a theatrical and metrical problem posed by each line."

Bolt eschews run-of-the-mill

Molière, preferring to exhumate "lost" plays. "I like unknown pieces. Critics are more prepared to forgive you one or two sins, if not a multitude. Also I prefer the comedies. French tragedies have always struck me as being beautifully written but incomprehensible as theatre. I always work with the audience in mind. Purity at the cost of boring one's audience is not permissible — not in comedy, at any rate."

Bolt describes himself as "an unoriginal poet", a rhymester who has exploited a very English poetic format. "The great thing is that the audience is aware of this tradition of English comic verse," he says. "Rhyming verse is fundamentally comic. Milton could not have written *Paradise Lost* in rhyming couplets. There is something essentially funny and undignified about them. It's the contortions you have to go through — 'responsibilities' rhymed with 'ill at ease' — that produce the excitement in seeing what is coming next."

"I know it sounds cocky, but *The Illusion* is influenced most by Dryden. The kind of cadences I was trying to get at were Drydenish. The debt, though, in the background is to Byron. *Don Juan* is my number one poem. I have read it every year since I was 15. Pope as a role model is hopeless. He is too great. But Dryden and Byron, on their bad days, are at least mortal."

With two more translations under commission, Bolt is not giving up his career (as Corneille did) to become a full-time writer. "No, never," he says. "The whole business of artistic endeavour is so precarious. It is an insane business. From what little experience I have had as a beginner, the theatre strikes me as being deeply unreliable. I intend to remain the gentleman amateur."

● The *Illusion* previews at the Old Vic, London SE1 (071-928 7616) from Thursday; first reviews should appear on June 12.



Ranjit Bolt: Investments by day, verses by night



## DANCE

Schaufuss at home: "We seem to have seen directors leaving one ballet company after another with a knife in their backs."

## Hello Berlin, goodbye all that

Peter Schaufuss, recently sacked as the artistic director of English National Ballet, talks about his bold new plans for the ballet of the Deutsche Oper, West Berlin, in an interview with John Percival

For a man who had the rug pulled from under his feet at the end of January, Peter Schaufuss looks cheerful. The day after English National Ballet's new chairman fired him from the post of artistic director, he sat in his London flat and twiddled his fingers wondering how he would pass the time. Then the telephone rang.

It was Götz Friedrich, general director of the Deutsche Oper, West Berlin, asking him to be their new ballet director, because Gert Reinhold, the present holder, had been eager to retire as soon as a suitable successor could be found. Terms were agreed within three weeks, and Friedrich announced the appointment with the words: "London's loss is Berlin's gain."

London is losing more than just an artistic director, because Schaufuss is taking with him no fewer than a dozen dancers from ENB, including Lynn Seymour and several of the young principals: Leanne Benjamin, Christine Camillo, Laura Costardi, Susan Haged and Martin James. But he indignantly rejects the suggestion made by one gossip-writer that this is "Schaufuss's revenge".

"It's not like that at all," he told me during a visit to London. "As you know, during my first two years as director I brought in a lot of dancers from outside to add excitement. But since then I have

been trying to build up new talent within the company. These dancers all said they would like to come to continue that process."

"There were two vacancies in Berlin for principals and four in the corps de ballet. I managed to add four more principal positions by using some of the guest artists' budget. We shall still have guest stars, but I do not think it is right to rely so much on guests; I want to build up a strong company."

Berlin will also receive the benefit of the exchange programme which Schaufuss had worked out with Oleg Vinogradov of the Kirov Ballet. He and Susan Haged have danced several times this season in Leipzig and will appear with the Kirov during their London and Manchester seasons respectively. In return, Yulia Makhalina and Igor Selinsky, the young Leningrad stars, were going to work with ENB, but because the deal was based on mutual trust and understanding, Vinogradov cancelled it when Schaufuss was fired, and will now send the dancers to Berlin instead.

Schaufuss is not inclined either to gloat or to brood over past troubles. He is too busy with the

future for long inquests, and pleasantly aware that conditions in Berlin are going to be different.

"You know that with ENB I always had to be conscious of how a programme would draw the audience," he told me. "So when I went to outline my proposals for Berlin next season, I said, 'Professor Friedrich, I'm afraid one particular programme may not prove popular.'"

"That doesn't matter," he told me, "so long as it's what you want to do." But it's nice to have people watching, he replied, and he said, "If it's good, they'll come, and if the house isn't full, that is all right provided it is something interesting and worth doing."

Schaufuss draws the inevitable contrast with the way the arts are funded in Britain. "I don't think governments here take it seriously. The way of raising money puts amateurs in charge. It should be a professional running thing."

The fact that the Deutsche Oper receives 100 per cent of its approved budget in subsidy has not encouraged Schaufuss into spendthrift ways. "You know me. I will go shopping with a £10 note and return with all the groceries

and £5 change. At ENB I had to find ways of raising money or doing things inexpensively. At Berlin, the pattern for the ballet has been to have two premieres a season, one big ballet and one smaller programme which can be three short works."

"Well, I have spread the short works through the season for more interest, instead of doing them all on one night. I have managed to squeeze out savings to get some extra new productions too." The result is that, besides the pre-arranged co-production with Lausanne of Béjart's five-hour Wagner epic *Ring am den Ring*, there will be a new production of *Giselle* by Schaufuss and five one-act ballets new to the company by Christopher Bruce, Roland Petit, Vinogradov and Béjart. This is as well as revivals of the Bouronville *Folk Tale* which Schaufuss staged earlier in Berlin, and the original one-act *Anastasia* which MacMillan created there, plus works by Balanchine, van Manen and others from the current repertoire.

"In addition, we shall do Christopher Bruce's full-evening *Cruel Garden*, not at the Deutsche Oper

but in one of the many other theatres available in Berlin.

"There is the exciting possibility and willingness for co-operation with the dance companies of the Staatsoper and the Komische Oper in East Berlin. We have just completed a joint programme at the Komische Oper, and there is to be a young choreographers' evening involving all three companies. I would like to see that hosted annually by each company in turn."

"All the premises are of existing works, because there was little time, but I am now planning the next five years and want creations for the company. At ENB, I was determined to have Christopher Bruce, a resident choreographer, because his work would give the dancers a good contrast with their usual style. But I am not sure whether I want a resident choreographer in Berlin. It might be better to invite guest choreographers."

"Gert Reinhold, my predecessor, has been at the Deutsche Oper since it opened 29 years ago. He has been more than amicable, really helpful, in telling me how everything works, who people are, where possible dangers are. It is such a benefit to have a hand-over like this. Over the past year or two, we seem to have seen directors leaving one ballet company after another with a knife in their backs. People in the other arts must think we are all mad in ballet."

## CRITICS' CHOICE: THEATRE AND CABARET

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current London shows can be found overleaf

## NEW IN LONDON

**ANNA CHRISTIE:** Natasha Richardson and John Woodhouse in O'Neill's passionate drama of sailors and shipwrecks, love and redemption. Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6863). Undergound: Waterloo. Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens June 14, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Until July 14.

**HIDDEN LAUGHTER:** Felicity Kendal and Peter Berthold in new play written and directed by Simon Gray, set in a West Country weekend cottage over 13 years of rural retreats. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-936 9989). Undergound: Charing Cross. Previews from Wed, 7.45pm. Opens June 12, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat (from June 20) Wed, 8pm and Sat, 5pm.

**HOMEWORK:** Battersea Arts Centre's Young Director of the Year, Penny Chilwell, directs play by the prolific, sometimes minimalist, Franz Xaver Kroetz, about West Germans caught in the poverty trap. BAC, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, SW11 (071-223 2223). Undergound: Brixton. Previews from Wed, 8.30pm. Opens Thurs, 8.30pm. Then Tues-Sun, 8.30pm. Until June 17.

**THE ILLUSION:** Building on its success with *The Liar*, the Old Vic comes up with another Corneille comedy, a play-within-a-play-within-a-play. Strong cast headed by Stan Thomas and Phelim McDermott. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Undergound: Waterloo. Previews Thurs, 7.30pm and Sat, 7.45pm. Opens June 11, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 7.45pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm (NB: June 12, 7pm).

**MAY DAYS:** Five-week season of dialogues on public issues by a wide variety of writers. Opens with Julie Mitchell (writing the Greens; Manfred Karge on an unemployed East German border guard; Antoni Libers on Poland v Russia).

**ROYAL COURT:** Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Undergound: Sloane Square. Opens Thurs, 8pm. Eves, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm. Until June 16. Mark Fisher, 146, on censorship. Theatre Upstairs (071-730 1745). Fri, Sat 7pm, mat Sat, 3.15pm. Phone box office for further programme details.

**PHAEDERA:** Version by Stalin's victim Marina Tsvetayeva of the stepmother's fatal love for a pig. Actors' Touring Company in London for three weeks. Lyric Studio Theatre, King Street, W6 (01-741 8701). Undergound: Hammersmith. Previews Wed, 8pm. Opens Thurs, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm.

**PRINCESS:** Sarah Linton in Carl Miller's one-woman show directed by Elaine Kidd: an East End schoolgirl's life and daydreams. Man in the Moon Theatre, 382 King's Road, SW3 (071-351 2876). Undergound: Sloane Square, then bus down King's Road. Previews tomorrow, 7pm. Opens Wed, 7pm. Then Tues-Sun, 7pm. Until June 23.

**ROMEO AND JULIET:** Fine Young Cannibals, Roland Gift, plays the hero in another Hull Truck production aiming for the common touch. Better than their last (Twelfth Night)? Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, NW1 (071-388 1394). Undergound: King's Cross/Euston. Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 1.45pm. Until June 30.

**SARA:** Cheek by Jowl in town again with Leasing's 1775 domestic tragedy: Sheila Gish as a rake's former mistress pursuing Rachel Joyce, as his new love. Lillian Baylis Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8916). Undergound: Angel. Previews tomorrow, 7.45pm. Opens Wed, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat (not June 30), 4pm, and June 28, 3pm. Until June 30.

**THE THREEPENNY OPERA:** London Bubble Company apply their nifty skills to the Weill/Brecht evergreen. Theatre Tent, by All Saints Church, Prince of Wales Road, Blackheath, SE3 (071-237 4437). British Rail, Blackheath. Tomorrow-Thurs, 7.30pm. June 12, 13 & 18, 7.30pm. (Alternates with a tense and glitter-sharp production of *The Gambler*.)

## OUTSIDE LONDON

**BATH:** In *Praise of Rattigan*, Dorothy Tutin, Maurice Donham, Ursula London, Richard Gibson in episodes from 12 of Rattigan's once fashionable plays. Theatre Royal, Sawclose (0225 448844). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, Thurs-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4.30pm. Until June 9.

**BIRMINGHAM:** *Of Mice and Men*, Clive Mantle and Jeremy Flynn play the migrant workers in Steinbeck's moving story of frustrated hopes. Antony Claret directs. Repertory Theatre, Broad Street (021 236 4455). Previews Fri, 7.30pm. Opens Sat, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat June 21 and 28, 2.30pm and June 30, 3.30pm. Until June 30.

**LANCASTER:** *The Tempest*. Open-air Promenade Theatre production by the lakes and dells of Williamson Park. Williamson Park (Box office at Duke's Theatre: 0524 68645). Opens Thurs, 7.15pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.15pm. No performances June 21-27, then in repertoire with *Tales of King Arthur*.

**LEATHERHEAD:** *Young Apollo*. Musical homage to Rupert Brooke's life, times and death; tunes by Radio One's Mike Reid. Thorndike, Church Street (0372 37677). Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm. Thurs-Sat, 8pm, mat June 5 and 20, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm. Until June 23.

**MANCHESTER:** *Hot Fudge and Icecream*. Caryl Churchill double-bill of sinister comedy plays about the lies we tell ourselves and the risks in tracing ancestral roots. Contact, Oxford Road (061 274 4400). Previews Wed, 7.30pm. Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until June 30.

## LONDON CABARET

**BENEFIT FOR THE BIRMINGHAM SIX:** No doubting the message, nor the political commitment of a sturdy handful of some of our best stand-ups — Mark Steel, Jeremy Hardy, Arnold Brown and Kit Hilderbach, plus music from the clever pool-song duo Skint Video and "angry young accordionist" John Moloney. Red Rose Club, 129 Seven Sisters Road, N7 (071-263 7255). Undergound: Finsbury Park/Holloway Road. Wed, doors 8.15pm, show 9pm, £5 (£3.50).

**CLUB SANDWICH:** For those with enough energy to dance as well as laugh, this enterprising regular night opens with comedy from Bob Mills, Ivor Darbins and Niall MacAnna — and later dissolves into a great knees-up with Ronnie and the Rex. Ronnie Golden compères. The Comedy Store, 28a Leicester Square, WC2 (0426 914433). Undergound: Leicester Square. Thurs, doors 8pm, show 9pm, £6.

**DOWNSTAIRS AT THE COPPERFIELD:** Cardiff Road, SE5 (061-880 2171). British Rail, Cardiff Bridge/Catford. Thurs, doors 8pm, show 9pm, £4.

**JENNY ECLAIR AND JULIE BAILLAC:** Two excellent women writers join Nicholas Parsons and Helen Lederer to record their new BBC Radio show, *Dear Jenny, Dear Julie*. Paris Studio, Lower Regent Street, W1 (no phone contact). Undergound: Piccadilly Circus. Fri, doors 7.15pm, no admission after 7.25pm, free.

**FRIDAY NIGHT VARIETY:** The Electric Cinema this week launches a new, regular Friday night comedy show, looking-off in style with the celebrated Arnold Brown; special guest acts are also promised. Electric Cinema, 191 Portobello Road, W11 (071-792 2020). Undergound: Ladbroke Grove. Fri, 9.30pm, £5.

**IMPROV MUSICAL:** Great things have been heard about this troupe — Beverly Fox, Alan Marriott, Phil Fidler, Ian McLaughlin, Sukhi Webster and Anthony Ingle — who devise and simultaneously perform a new musical each time, taken from audience suggestions. Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, WC2 (071-836 2238). Undergound: Covent Garden. Sun, 3.30pm, 15.50-£10.

## OUTSIDE LONDON

**BRIGHTON:** Seaford songs and assorted nonsense from Slart Video and John Moloney, with stand-up from the compère, Logan Murray. Crocodile Cabaret, The Concorde, Madeira Drive (0273 677658). Thurs, 9pm, £3.50 (£3).

**WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA:** Logan Murray pops up again, with Donna McPhail, Martin Soan, Stewart Lee and Frank Skinner as host. Joker Comedy Club, Cliffs Pavilion Maritime Bar, Station Road (0702 505007). Sat, doors 8pm, £5.

**BRISTOL:** Logan Murray must have a discounted Redcard, for here he is again, with Jeff Green (straight stand-up) and Noel James (a King Kong routine that has to be seen to be believed). Fleece & Firkin, St Thomas Street (0384 883366). Tues, 9.30pm, £2.50.

**MANCHESTER:** Jo Brand's cool, self-deprecating routines on love, food and the pursuit of marital happiness make her unmissable. With James Macabre and Alan Seaman. Comedy Dome, Post's Corner, 37 Lower Broughton Road, Salford (061 236 1559). Fri, 8pm, £3.

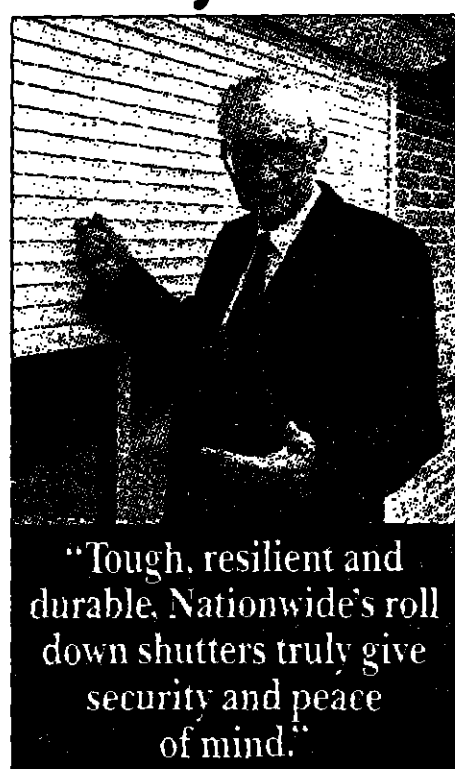
CAROL SARLER

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## REVIEWS

## Certain death, uncertain truth

A FEW weeks ago, I suggested in these pages that the Granada drama-documentary *Who Bombed Birmingham?* had made a devastating case for the re-opening of the whole inquiry and the release of those who, it appeared from the programme, had been falsely charged. A mixed postbag revealed general agreement from *Times* readers, with the significant exception of those who worked anywhere near a court of law.

There, the feeling was that neither television film-makers nor their critics had any right to comment on such a case without proper legal training. What these letters revealed was a very real fear that trial by television would be followed by release by television. This was regarded as a process in which the full majesty of the law might somehow be short-circuited by a still new-fangled and apparently risky modern device, allowing the wrong sort of people to hold and shape and give opinions in public.

So what, in the tragic weekend of renewed IRA killings at home and abroad, are we to make of *Shoot To Kill*? A four-hour epic from Yorkshire Television, shown in two parts last night and tonight on all ITV regions save that of Ulster, which has on legal advice banned its home-ground screening, it tells the story of six killings in Northern Ireland over a period of six weeks in the winter of 1982. All those killed were unarmed, and all the incidents involved the SAS-trained special support unit of the Royal Ulster Constabulary for whom the motto was "Firepower, speed, aggression".

Last night's opener was cast in the straightforward fashion of a telly-thriller, detailing the six killings and the events leading up to each of them. A story of ambushes, car chases, betrayals

## TELEVISION

and sudden deaths, it had all the grainy neo-realist qualities of any good crime series of the 1980s, given a certain authenticity by a director, Peter Kosminsky, whose previous experience has been in classic documentaries about Cambodia and the Falklands. But by the end of last night we had moved into still more controversial territory, as a police constable claimed under oath that evidence had been falsified, and that the RUC was involved in a major cover-up of its own apparent murders.

It was at this point that the Department of Public Prosecutions insisted on the appointment of John Stalker, from the Greater Manchester Police, to hold an independent inquiry. Tonight's conclusion to the drama focuses on the battle between Stalker and Sir John Hermon of the RUC, two giants superbly played by Jack Shepherd and T.P. McKenna.

Both men are fighting for what they believe to be paramount Stalker for the objective truth, Hermon for the honour of a police force in what he describes as a jungle, where the shoot-to-kill policy was that of terrorists long before even the suggestion that the police have also adopted it.

The conflict tonight is therefore between Manchester and Belfast, and it is fought over access to files rather than bodies in barns; but it is no less bloody for all that, and the contentious lack of co-operation by the RUC is indeed terrifying. "It is not *Dixon of Dock Green*," says Stalker at one point. "This is a death squad from a banana republic."

What *Shoot To Kill* most usefully illustrates is the contrast between acceptable police behaviour "on the mainland" as Stalker



Superbly-played giant: Jack Shepherd as John Stalker

puts it, and in Ireland, where other laws would seem to obtain. But in the end this is still a drama, rather than a documentary, despite the background and techniques of its maker, and we have no absolute guarantee that it has given us the whole truth.

What we do have is cause, yet again, to wonder about the sudden, sinister death of Stalker's remit in Northern Ireland and the need to look once more at the results of his inquiry.

Friday's *Arena* (BBC 2) was a semi-autobiography of Frankie Howard, who was said always to have wanted to be Jack Buchanan and who emerged a melancholy loner from a career breakdown which was never satisfactorily

explained or explored. "Doctors need to do," said Howard to himself and the camera, "dentists need to dent, and actors need to act."

What comics need to do is still more mysterious, and *Arena* only began to outline the Howard puzzle, leaving him on a beach trying to perfect a joke which, like Franklin, would ever only really work when they took away the camera and brought in the live audience. Some things never change: there is out there still an impresario who thinks Howard should cut all the hesitations for the sake of his act; except, of course, that they have always been the act.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

## THEATRE

### Thérèse Raquin

Minerva Studio, Chichester

MACBETH and his Lady suffered for it, restlessly pacing a castle turned to a prison, and Thérèse and her Laurent suffer likewise, sleepless and cursing, in the gloomy room above their haberdashery's shop at the Pont Neuf. But Zola's guilty couple, in the novel and in the gripping play he quarried from it, are not destroyed by armies disguised as undergrowth: their own guilty consciences corrode them from within. The happiness they hoped for after murdering her husband

never arrives. Mutual hatred is their lot, and Zola's achievement — light years in advance of any British dramatist of his time — is to show the mastering force of guilt.

An open stage is not ideally suited for suggesting claustrophobia, but Vicki Mortimer's set manages it with the simple device of a wide ceiling, as grey as the walls and tilted like a closing lid.

In the first scene, Camille Raquin is still alive, a famously amiable figure (well played by Kevin Doyle) puncturing his dithering remarks with ingratiating laughs. No sooner has he trotted out of the room than the secret lovers hurtle into each other's arms, Laurent tips her bodice open and they all but make out on the dinner table. The erotic

passion in this scene is tremendous. When Neil Pearson tells her how he loves her, she need do no more than nod and go on smiling, but as Joanne Pearce's head moves, her eyes catch the light from somewhere and glitter with delight.

After the murder, her eyes become coals that can never be lit. The voice that was thrifty with desire is still deep, but for the most part it is the depth of despair.

The dialogue in Nicholas Wright's translation is easy and natural. He has artfully trimmed Zola's lines where they duplicate what can be more effectively shown through cries or telling silences.

David Leveaux's direction is strong on significant pauses, where two characters just stare or

stalk one another around the well-worn family furniture. In the creepy last scene, where the splendid Georgina Anderson, Camille's mother, incapacitated by a stroke on learning the truth, follows the guilty pair with her implacable eyes, Leveaux builds the suspense with a masterful skill up to and beyond the moment when her head starts writing on the tablecloth.

The play's wit is nicely brought out by Bernard Gallagher, dropping in for dominoes, and Jonathan Adams's infinitely pedantic bourgeois. With a charming performance by Robin McCaffrey as an artlessly happy young girl, this production gives a fine start to the Minerva season.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## CONCERT

### Berlioz Requiem

Festival Hall

THANKS to the comprehensive biographical and musical studies that have been published during the last year or so by David Cairns and Kern Holoman, a great deal more is known about Berlioz, and one of the things known is how little he knew himself. During his years as a critic he, of course, came into contact with everything that was being performed in Paris, but then critics are notoriously slow to learn, and in essence his language had been formed much earlier, at a time when Beethoven and Gluck attracted almost all his musical veneration.

Perhaps this massive ignorance was necessary to his freedom, but in the particular case of his Requiem, it is our own ignorance that may distort perception, since here he was contributing to a

tradition of French revolutionary and imperial ceremonial music including the works of his teacher Le Sueur and others who have slipped even the capacious memory of the current CD catalogue.

Any performance is bound to raise questions about how much that we regard as supremely the Berliozian in this score — the delicacy along with the colour, the brass grandeur, the enjoyment of weird harmonies, the fugal writing so flamboyantly grotesque one cannot be sure whether it is ironic or not (particularly when it comes so close to the evidently parodic counterpoint of *The Damnation of Faust*) — belongs in fact to the style of the age.

Friday night's performance, however, was persuasively Berliozian in its orchestral virtuosity and in the immense power that Serge Baudo, whose experience in conducting this score is probably unparalleled, brought to the passages where Berlioz shows himself the pre-eminent composer of the steam

age, working with rotating figures that lock together like giant gears in speed ratios of two-to-one.

The orchestra was the Young Musicians' Symphony, who are probably alone in London these days in being able to field eight symphonists, eight bassoons and all the extra brass for the band stationed dramatically in boxes on either side. But their distinction is not just one of size: the playing was vivid and direct throughout, the woodwind ensemble being particularly fine in their lucid and immediate command of sonority and balance, the brass emphatic (the tubas provided a splendidly characteristic bass line), the percussionists graceful when required as well as shattering and the strings making much of their great melodic sweeps, as of the translucent scoring for violins in the "Sanctus".

The impression was of a young man's music: fiercely imaginative, often drawn in bold strokes, but always with the passion and

precision that comes from superb technical confidence.

If only there had been a Young Musicians' Symphony chorus to perform with them... as it was, first faces in the orchestra were teamed with grey heads in the choir, provided by the Pro Musica Society, and the clarity of the instrumental playing sadly showed up so many lackluster and strained high notes from the singers. There was also a want of sheer vocal volume, for even though this is a work most remarkable, as Baudo well showed, in its passages of quiet tremulation and uncertainty, it does need its moments of savage yelling too. However, one singer did distinguish himself: Vernon Middley, a late replacement as the tenor soloist of the "Sanctus", was beautifully steady and sweet, challenging the choral soprano to come somewhere near the mark in their echoes.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from Page 20

**CALX**  
(a) The goal areas at either end of the field at the end of the game, marked with white wash. Good Calx is closed by a transverse wall. Bad Calx is open-ended.

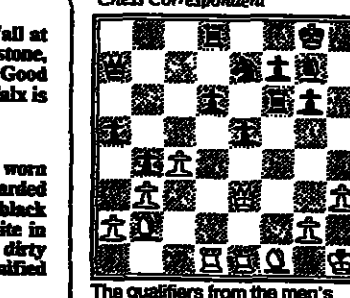
**SCUG**  
(a) A scupper or scup-cap is the games cap worn by Romans who have not yet been awarded gladiator's helmet or other colours. Blue and black horizontal stripes in white, blue and white in summer. Scug is slang for a boy's dirty appearance, unpleasant habits, and unattractive behaviour.

**SOCK**  
(a) Grab is called sock at Elton, and confectionery shops are sock-shops. It is an offence to sock in the street. Perhaps from the obsolete slang *socker* a dandy.

**TUG**  
(b) One of the 70 King's Scholars of Henry VI's original foundation, from *gens tugens*, the governing tribe.

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



The qualifiers from the men's Zonal in Blackpool, the first stage of the world championship, were Grandmasters Murray Chandler and Michael Adams, while in the women's event, Cathy Forbes won through to the next stage. In today's position, from the game Caron (White) — Adams (Black), Blackpool 1990, can you see how White wins?

Solution in tomorrow's *Times*.

## THE TABLE OF THE TWO HORSEMEN

2 MAY - 16 JUNE

A haunting evocation of the last days of the British Raj in Arthur Frewen's new play.

The woman in Black, the first stage of the world championship, were Grandmasters Murray Chandler and Michael Adams, while in the women's event, Cathy Forbes won through to the next stage. In today's position, from the game Caron (White) — Adams (Black), Blackpool 1990, can you see how White wins?

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## THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

At the National Theatre

The Pirates of Penzance is a comic opera by Gilbert and Sullivan. It tells the story of a young man who is adopted by a pirate and then discovers that he is actually a nobleman's son.

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## ENTERTAINMENTS

## OPERA &amp; BALLET

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## THEATRES



TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY  
TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALL

BBC 1

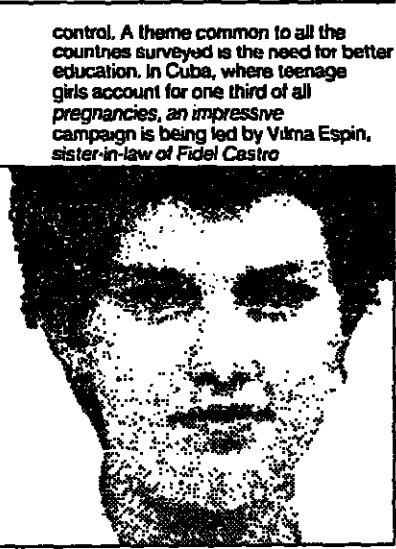
- 6.00 Cee-fax  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie Meyer and Fiona Foster 5.55 Regional news and weather  
9.00 News and weather followed by Travel Show Guides. Turkey's Aegean coast (r) 9.35 Discovering Birds. The pleasures of bird watching  
10.00 News and weather followed by Matchpoint (r)  
10.25 Playdays 10.50 Stoppit and Tidyup. Narrated by Terry Wogan (r)  
10.55 Five to Eleven. Author Akbar Ahmed reads from his book *Discovering Islam*  
11.00 News and weather followed by Hudson and Halls. More recipes from the camp cooks (r) 11.30 Thick of the Trade. Experts take the lid off their trade secrets (r)  
12.00 News and weather followed by Dallas (r) (Cee-fax) 12.50 Travel Show UK Midland. Kings Lynn (r)  
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather  
1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) 1.50 Matchpoint. Quiz hosted by Angela Rippon  
2.15 The Six Million Dollar Man. Lee Majors stars as the most active person ever to have a prosthetic arm. In today's episode he has to summon up all his bionic energy to contain an astronaut who, through a different process, has become equally strong  
3.05 Sazasar. Janice Long introduces the fashion and DIY series. (Cee-fax)

BBC 2

- 7.10 Open University: The Midlands Enlightenment. Ends at 7.35  
8.30 Daytime on Two: the science of speed 8.50 Jobs in the armed services 9.10 Egyptian buildings 9.25 Beginner's German 9.40 Finding work in London 10.05 For the very young 10.18 Music Line 10.40 Working with the elderly and handicapped 11.00 A visit to the Eurotunnel Exhibition Centre 11.20 Part one of a drama about two teenagers having their first serious relationship 11.40 Puzzles for 10- to 12-year-olds 11.45 Computers in the classroom 11.50 First aid 12.00 Science for the young 12.15 The events leading to the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 12.35 Maths 12.50 Teaching technology to the young 12.00 Green Claws 1.35 The story of the Tudor warship, the Mary Rose  
2.00 News and weather followed by Words and Pictures 2.15 Songs of Praise from Lichfield Cathedral 2.50 Just a Bit of Bidding for the world's most expensive stamp (r)  
3.00 News and weather followed by The Empty Quarter. The journey of Wilfred Thesiger across the southern Arabian desert in 1946 (r) 3.50 News, regional news and weather  
4.00 What Happened When They Grow Up? A follow-up to a 1980 documentary about Claremont, a special school for handicapped children in Bristol (r) 4.30 One In Four. Magazine series for the disabled presented by Isobel Ward, Simon Barnes and Chris Davies  
5.00 Film: Humoresque (1946, b/w) starring Joan Crawford and John Garfield. Gripping drama, beautifully acted, about an ambitious young violinist who becomes involved with a wealthy, unstable patroness. Her attraction to her young and handsome protégé is more than a

simple appreciation of musical talents, and the relationship which develops between them reflects the intensity of her feelings. Outstanding remake of the 1920 film. Directed by Jean Negulesco  
7.00 East. A new series bringing topical Asian affairs to the fore. This week's programme looks at the medical risks involved in a close-coupled marriage, common among some Asians, and at the lack of Asian parents adopting Asian children in care. There are also topical reports on situations abroad. Presented by Shyama Pereira and Krishnan Gurusamy  
7.30 Fruity Passions. Wine-making series. The resourceful Margaret Vaughan makes wine from bread, potatoes and raspberries and also a remedial elderflower cordial. (Cee-fax)  
8.00 Tales from Prague. The season of special programmes on Czechoslovakia continues with a look at how the Czech government has responded to the allegations of Semtex exports, used by terrorists in recent bombing campaigns, and the media coverage by the West of such allegations  
8.10 Horizon: The Child Mothers. Straying somewhat outside its scientific brief and into areas of conscience and morality, Horizon presents a global report on teenage pregnancy which takes in examples from Britain, the United States, West Africa and Cuba. The approach brings out the cultural differences between Ghana, which expects young motherhood and welcomes it, and western societies, where it is often the unwanted result of social or emotional deprivation. Despite girls reaching sexual maturity earlier, the medical effects of pregnancy can be tragic. This in turn raises the contentious issue of abortion, which in Ghana is often the only available form of birth

control. A theme common to all the countries surveyed is the need for better education. In Cuba, where teenage girls account for one third of all pregnancies, an impressive campaign is being led by Vilma Espin, sister-in-law of Fidel Castro  
9.00 Film: The Premature Burial (1961) starring Ray Milland and Hazel Court. An adaptation of the Edgar Allan Poe story about a medical student, believing his father has been mistakenly buried alive after lying in a death-like coma, vows that the same fate will not overtake him. Flamboyant material, served up with director Roger Corman's usual panache. (Cee-fax)  
10.20 Animation from Prague. *Darkness Light Darkness* - a surreal animated feature from Jan Svankmajer  
10.30 Newsnight. The latest national and international news including extended coverage of the man story of the day. Presented by Jeremy Paxman  
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine  
11.55 Weather  
12.00 Open University: The Great Exhibition. Ends at 12.30am



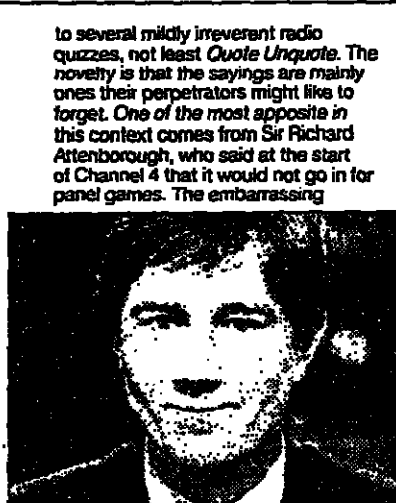
Sarah: one of many teenage mothers (8.10pm)

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am  
9.25 Chain Letters. Word game 9.55 Thames News and weather  
10.00 Out of This World. Routine comedy series. Evie is a normal all-American teenager - with an alien for a father  
10.30 This Morning. Home and family magazine  
12.10 Playbox 12.30 Home and Away  
1.00 News at One with John Suchet  
Weather 1.20 Thames News and weather  
1.30 Santa Barbara. Tacky soap 2.00 A Country Practice  
2.30 Magnum: Innocence Abroad. Tom Selleck as the sun-kissed Hawaii-based private eye Thomas Magnum 3.25 Thames News and weather 3.30 Families  
4.00 Cocoon 4.05 What-a-Mess. Animated adventures of a dog. (Cee-fax)  
4.20 The Real Ghostbusters (r)  
4.40 Durrance: Georgia on Their Minds. The story of nine-year-old Georgia Watson, deaf for five years, whose hearing has been partially restored thanks to a medical advance  
5.10 Fun & Games. Rob Buckman and Celia Hoyle present the programme which proves that mathematical puzzles can be fun  
5.40 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 5.55 Thames News and weather 6.00 Home and Away (r)  
6.30 Thames News and weather

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Art of Landscape. Breathtaking scenes of natural beauty set to music.  
6.20 Business Daily  
6.30 The Channel 4 Daily  
9.55 Celebs  
12.00 Time To Remember (b/w). In 1943 and 1944, Italy became the focal point of the Allied advance and Mussolini was executed by Italian patriots. Narrated by Carlo Riccio (r)  
12.30 The Business Daily. Financial and business news service  
1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series  
2.00 The Carers. Open College programme focusing on those in care work (r) (Cee-fax)  
2.30 18-40: Television Interventions. Celebrating Glasgow as the Cultural Capital of Europe  
2.35 Film: First a Girl (1935, b/w) starring Jesse Matthews and Sonnie Hale. A vintage British musical story, in which a young woman has to stand in for a temperamental actress who she has befriended. Not much of a problem, except that she must also play a man when off stage. Good performance by Matthews. Remade as *Victor/Victoria*. Directed by Victor Saville  
4.30 Film: The Last Days of Pompeii. The story of the city's destruction, while a fellow panelist Valerie Singleton shows admirable lack of embarrassment when confronted by one of her own utterances in which she bemoaned the smallness of her bust  
9.00 Cutting Edges.  
Officially abolished after Indian independence, the Hindu caste system lives on. The main victims are the country's 150 million Untouchables, condemned by their supposed deeds in a previous life to be the outcasts of society. Mira Hartman's film is a grim catalogue of discrimination and abuse to which



Geoffrey Perkins: Don't quote me (8.30pm)

Contrary to the promise of the Agatha Christie tombs, detective stories can be just as interesting when the audience already knows the culprit and is free to concentrate on the hows and whys. Wisely eschewing any attempt at lookalikes, *Shoot to Kill* is well served by its three principal actors, Jack Shepherd (Stalker), David Calder (John Thorburn, Stalker's deputy and consultant to this film) and T. P. McKenna (Sir John Harmon). But even if it's not a line based on fact, this would still be one of the year's best thrillers, gripping from start to finish. (Cee-fax)  
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Julia Somerville. Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather  
10.35 Shoot to Kill. The conclusion of the three-part drama documentary. (Cee-fax)  
11.45 Shoot to Kill - The Issues. Olivia O'Leary discusses the controversial issues raised by *Shoot to Kill* with some of the people involved in the Stalker inquiry  
12.15am Murphy's Law. Entertaining series starring George Segal as an insurance investigator  
1.10 Sportsweek Extra. Highlights of Paul Hodgson's WBC Featherweight title fight against Marcos Villaseña  
2.10 Spy. Lightweight spoof espionage series from the 1960s  
3.10 Music Special. Roberta Flack in concert at the Forum in Canada (r)  
4.10 60 Minutes. Interviews and investigations from the United States  
5.10 ITN Morning News with Christabel King. Ends at 6.00

The Indian authorities appear to turn a blind eye. It is not just that this underclass is expected to perform the menial jobs, such as cleaning toilets and sweeping the streets (and incidentally exposing itself to the risk of disease). Attempts to integrate the Untouchables through a policy of positive discrimination have been stoutly resisted and demonstrations against their conditions are brutally suppressed. A dispute with landowners over the non-payment of the legal minimum wage resulted in an horrendous massacre in which one Untouchable had 19 members of his family killed  
10.00 Vintage Comic Strip: More Bad News. Satirical, and often very funny, comedy series (r)  
11.05 Sunless. Shown on the first anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, Shu Kai's film sets out to examine the impact of the tragedy on the people of Hong Kong, who face the prospect of Chinese rule in 1997. Many decided that the best way to cope would be to emigrate, but some stayed in the hope of a better future. With English subtitles  
12.50am Made in the USA. Independent American documentary and film series. Beginning with *Stop the Violence: Rap Strikes Back*. The Stop the Violence movement was created by the rap artists of America in a bid to stop black on black violence and crime. The gathering of these artists, engineered by Kris (KRS-One) Parker of BDP, saw the release of a record. Rappers from the movement give their comments on the violence that exists in the inner-city areas, which they feel is not endemic to black culture  
1.20 Film: She Must Be Seeing Things (1987) starring Sheila Dabney and Lois Weaver. An absorbing study of the stormy relationship between a New York lawyer and her female lover. Directed by Sheila McLaughlin. Ends at 3.05

RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW  
5.00am Gary King 7.00 Simon Mayo  
8.30 Simon Bates 12.00pm Newsbeat  
12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 Mike Read  
In the Afternoon 5.30 News 10.00 Mark Goodson 12.00 The Mike Read Show  
8.30, 10.30, 12.30 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris

RADIO 2

- FM Stereo  
4.00am Steve Medden 8.30 Chris Stuart 7.30 Anna Groom 9.30 John Peel 11.00 Jimmy Young 12.00am David Jacobs 2.05 Gloria Hunniford 4.05 James Gaynor 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Dougie Boyd 8.00 The Mike Read Show  
Diane Dore 7.30 Denise Bland 8.00 David Gray 8.30 The Mike Read Show  
The Best of Jazz 10.00 Ken Bruce 12.00am Jazz Parade 12.30 Mike Em Lay  
British and American comedy over the last 50 years 1.00-4.00 Neil Armstrong  
MW as above except: 5.40-7.00pm Sport and Classified Results

WORLD SERVICE

- All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST.  
5.00am World News 5.08 24 Hours 5.30  
London News 5.58 Weather 6.00 Newsbeat  
6.30am-7.00am World News 7.00 24 Hours  
7.30am News Summary and Financial News  
8.00am-8.30am World News 8.30am-9.00am  
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# Thatcher in angry attack on 'barbaric' IRA killers

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister yesterday branded recent IRA attacks on mainland Britain and Europe as the work of "barbaric" criminals, as she said the armed forces were hunting the men who gunned down three soldiers in Staffordshire on Friday.

During a BBC World Service phone-in programme, Mrs Thatcher said the IRA was intent on destroying democracy and replacing it with "the rule of the gun".

Referring to recent attacks outside Ulster which have led to the "mistaken" killings of a baby, two soldiers' wives and two Australian tourists, she said: "These people are wicked and it requires all of us in Northern Ireland, the UK and other countries to make it perfectly clear that this is totally unacceptable and that the guilty must be brought to justice".

Police searching for the two IRA men who shot dead one off-duty soldier and wounded two others on a crowded railway station platform at Lichfield said they were disappointed that not more members of the public had responded to their appeal. They pointed out that the shootings occurred within 15 yards of a stationary train carrying some 150 passengers. So far, only one person on the train had been interviewed.

In West Germany, meanwhile, police were examining a pistol found in the abandoned car of another IRA gang which murdered Major Michael Dillon-Lee, of the Royal Artillery, in front of his wife late on Friday in Dortmund. He was shot dead as the couple were about to enter their home after returning from a party. It is understood a Kalashnikov rifle was used by the gunman.

The gunman and an accomplice, who made off in a silver Mazda car, were later involved in a high-speed chase with police but managed to escape. The Mazda was abandoned at Mogge, 24 miles north-east of Dortmund, where the gang switched to a second car. West Germany's Federal Criminal Bureau has offered a £17,500 reward to anyone supplying them with useful information.

Det Chief Supt Malcolm Bevington, who is leading the Lichfield murder inquiry, said some of the passengers must have witnessed the attack. "We desperately want them to contact us as a matter of urgency," he said. He also said that detectives had had a "positive" indication that the

terrorists had been in the Lichfield area for between three and six weeks before the shooting to plan the attack.

Describing the operation as "extremely well executed", he said the unnamed soldiers travelling home for a weekend's leave, had been shot just as the northward-bound train was about to move off. The soldiers had been intending to board a train for Birmingham. The two gunmen fled by jumping onto the line, crossing the track and scaling the wall of a builder's yard. They then rendezvoused with a third man waiting in a getaway car. It is thought they headed southwards.

Police have interviewed around 150 people so far about the shootings, the first of their kind to occur on mainland Britain since the mid-1970s. They have included a railway employee who saw the faces of the gunmen. His description, together with that given by the two wounded soldiers is expected to lead to a photo-fit picture being released.

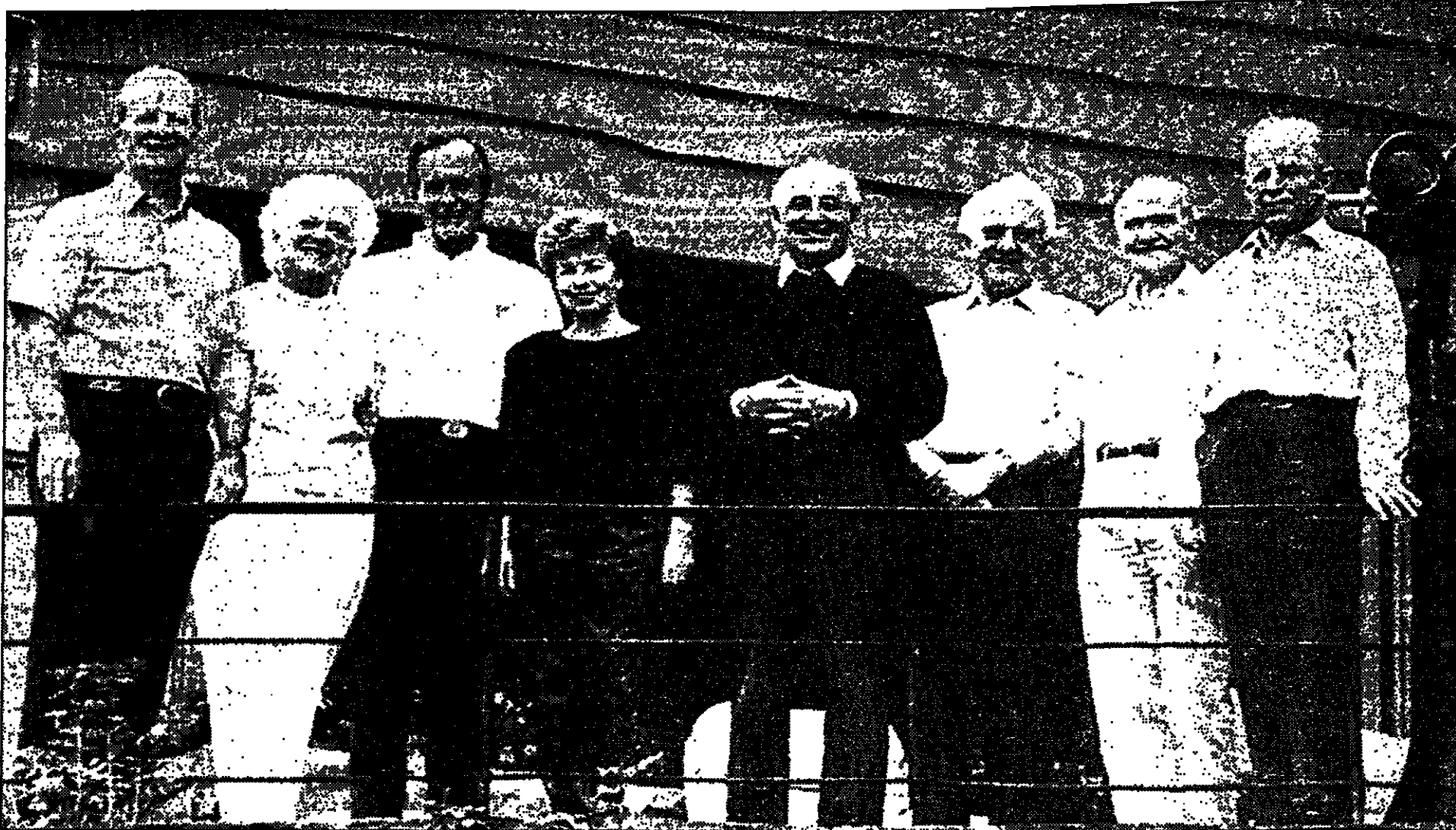
Around 160 officers are working on the inquiry which has been widened to include Nottingham and London. Police have been checking all vehicles abandoned in the West Midlands over the past few days and questioning owners of hotels and guest houses.

The soldier killed at Lichfield was Private Robert Davies, aged 19, from Pontardulais, near Swansea, West Glamorgan, who was undergoing basic training with the Prince of Wales Division at the nearby Whittington barracks. The wounded soldiers were Private Neil Evans and Private Robert Parkin, also from South Wales.

Praise for Gorbachev, page 8



Mrs Thatcher: Answering phone-in questions on radio



Break at Camp David: from left, Mr Baker, Mrs Bush, Mr Bush, Mrs Gorbachev, Mr Gorbachev, Mr Shevardnadze, Mr Brent Scowcroft and Marshal Akhromeyev

## Gorbachov flies home to a packet of troubles

Continued from page 1

I hope he has no suspicions about mine," President Bush said.

Mr Gorbachov, for his part, emphasized that in spite of disagreement about the alignment of a united Germany, Moscow had no intention of "putting spokes in the wheels" of reunification.

Repeating what he said at his press conference with President Mitterrand a week before, Mr Gorbachov warned that if Nato membership for a united Germany was "the only option", then Moscow would have to "consider what to do" about its armed forces and about the Vienna talks on reducing conventional force levels in Europe (CFE). The present timetable, reinforced by both leaders this week, provides for a CFE agreement to be

signed before the end of the year.

While not concealing their differences on Germany and on Lithuanian independence, both Presidents made much of the "productive" nature of the summit. As well as the controversial trade agreement and the statement on an outline Start treaty, the agreements signed on Friday included a long-term agreement on US grain sales to the Soviet Union, an agreement on the destruction of chemical weapons stocks, a protocol limiting the size of underground nuclear tests, and a student exchange agreement.

Mr Baker and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, signed agreements on maritime boundaries and sea transport and a civil aviation agreement providing

for direct flights between the two countries.

Mr Gorbachov was also questioned about the domestic problems which many observers believed would place him in a weak negotiating position before the summit began. He responded reluctantly to a Soviet journalist's question about Mr Boris Yeltsin, who was last week elected president of the Russian Federation. Mr Gorbachov repeated his assertion made in Canada that Mr Yeltsin's election could complicate the process of perestroika. "It is all very serious," he said, "it will be clear soon what he is after."

● MOSCOW: President Gorbachov is returning to Moscow with his domestic position fundamentally weaker (Richard Owen

writes). He faces economic chaos, rapidly growing demands by Soviet republics for independence and the apparently unstoppable rise of his wildly popular rival Mr Boris Yeltsin, who now heads the Russian Federation. Speculation grew yesterday in Moscow that Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, Mr Gorbachov's prime minister for the past five years, would step down this week if the Supreme Soviet rejects the government's badly mauled plan for a "regulated market economy" based on steep price increases.

Yesterday Professor Landsbergis, the Lithuanian president, announced that Lithuania would sign a bilateral co-operation agreement with Mr Yeltsin's Russian Federation "soon". He said Lithuania wanted separate trade deals with

both Russia and the Ukraine because "they themselves are not happy with the way the Kremlin is doing things".

Meanwhile the Soviet state planning system moved closer to irrelevance as some republics began to ignore centrally set targets and prices in favour of direct barter with each other. In Moscow the radical City Soviet set up a new commodities exchange in a bid to make a "decisive turn" toward a market economy. In London, Mrs Thatcher expressed admiration for the Soviet leader during an international radio phone-in on the BBC World Service. She said: "I do not like the phrase 'Gorbymania'. I think President Gorbachov is a quite remarkable president and a remarkable person. I am a great fan."

## Italians hold England fans

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN CAGLIARI

THREE England football fans were arrested by Italian police on the island of Sardinia after they were accused of damaging their hotel room and stealing sheets, an Italian news agency reported yesterday.

It said the three were identified as Mr Robert Neill, aged 21, Mr Lee Forster and Mr Andrew Brockman, both aged 25. The agency said they would appear before an Italian magistrate today for a hearing to decide whether they should be charged with robbery and vandalism.

The three were arrested on

Saturday night at a small hotel in the centre of Cagliari, where England play Ireland on June 11 in both teams' opening game of the World Cup.

The police were called by the hotel's owner, who claimed the three Britons had refused to pay for damaging their room and for the missing sheets, the agency reported.

It said the three were not on the list of known football hooligans given to the Italian authorities by the police in England. The Italian fear that large numbers of English and Dutch soccer hooligans will

try to cause trouble during the month-long championship beginning next Friday in Milan.

Italy has deployed an additional 3,200 police in Cagliari alone to try to control fans before and during England's first-round matches.

● ROME: The self-styled leader of Britain's soccer hooligans has breached the tight security surrounding the World Cup (A Correspondent writes). Mr Paul Scarratt, aged 34, has arrived here despite being on the Football Association's list of banned supporters.

## Coach crash kills 11 Britons

Continued from page 1

yesterday that the accident underlined once again that motorists had to respect the speed limit. "The reasons for this tragic accident are simple — a speed of 125kph (80mph), a tyre that explodes and here we have the result."

In France, coaches carrying a full load are limited to a maximum speed of 90kph (around 55mph). Investigators said no other vehicle had been involved in the crash, which occurred in good conditions at around 8am.

The vehicle, owned by Montego European, a small firm based in Leek, Stafford-

shire, was carrying five couriers, two drivers and 69 holidaymakers. One of the drivers was believed to be Mr John Johnson, of Stoke on Trent.

According to survivors the coach was running several hours late after a puncture on its outward trip.

A spokeswoman for Montego European, which started business two months ago, said that the coach, a Van Hool, was one of two returning from the South of France yesterday. "We are all very, very distressed. But I can assure you that the coach was absolutely roadworthy. It was fully in-

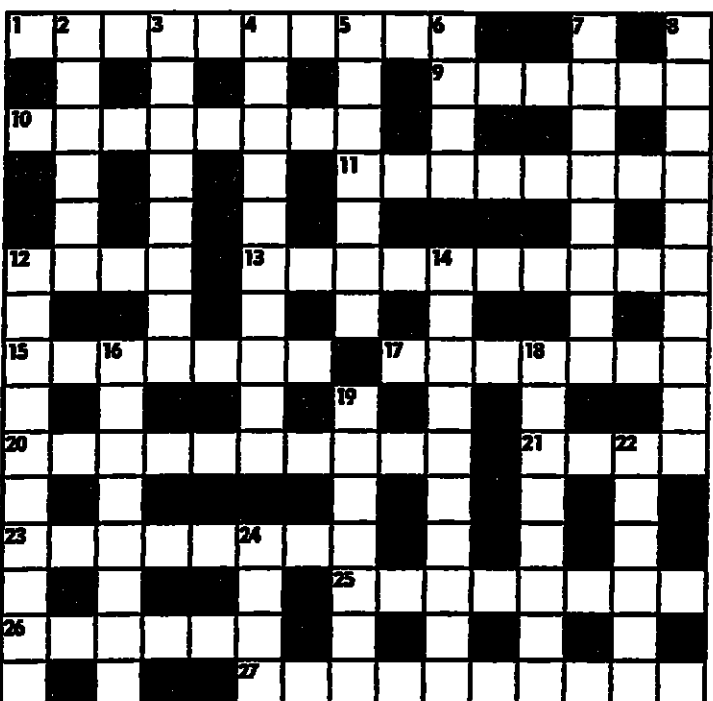
spected the day before it left Leek in the early hours of Friday morning. We are no cowboy firm."

The Foreign Office in London set up a casualty bureau on 071-270 2700.

The crash occurred as a long weekend brought heavy traffic to roads across France: the A6, which links Paris and Lyons, is invariably busy at this time.

Three Britons were killed in another road accident in France yesterday. Police said that Mrs Jennifer Jackson, her daughter Cathy, aged 14, and son Benjamin, 13, had died after their car hit a barrier between Lille and Dunkerque.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,311



- ACROSS**
- Class of worker secure in depression at first (6-4).
  - Make faster progress abroad with career (6).
  - Fruit drop or humbug before trip (8).
  - Inventory always including name of auditor (8).
  - Lad on French horse cleared obstacle (10).
  - Builds up to a sea journey reportedly (7).
  - Motorway turning restriction catches policing centre vehicle (7).
  - Commercial traveller sticking to established lines? (5,5).
  - Camp boundary (4).
  - Left in the long grass but brought back (8).
  - Subsidiary accommodation requiring a rent arrangement with low return (8).

- DOWN**
- Talker with little change for loaf (6).
  - Aim to overcome displeasure by compromise (8).
  - Cultivated plot a scene of variegated colour display (10).
  - Wycliffite nobleman holding up everything (7).
  - Squabbles causing tears, we hear (4).
  - Half Joffre's call-up held the north in furious action (8).
  - Not to be swallowed, even when cigar ends removed (10).
  - Brook and ornamental grounds a scene of tumult (4,6).
  - Ordered said to enter established position (10).
  - Our price slashed, but he gets the take-off (8).
  - Encourage one to enter climbing expeditions to Northern Ireland (8).
  - Articles in support of company neckwear, perhaps (7).
  - Reputable girl over broadcast (6).
  - A dynasty with taste? (4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,310 will appear next Saturday

Concise crossword, page 13

## WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

THE FOURTH OF JUNE

- CALX**
- Wall Game pool area
  - Etne cinder running-track
  - The flagging block
- SCUG**
- To mangle
  - To eat in the street
  - A plain cap
- SOCK**
- A crab
  - Field Game stockings
  - To swat
- TUG**
- A web-bob on
  - A King's Scholar
  - Head Man's Chambers

Answers on page 18, column 1

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	737
National motorways	738
Wales	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).	

## WEATHER

After a bright, dry start over a large part of England and Wales, cloud will develop and this will give some scattered showers. Parts of northern Scotland, together with the Northern Isles, will start cloudy with some rain or drizzle, but will become clearer during the day. Elsewhere over Scotland it will be brighter and mainly dry. Northern Ireland will become cloudy after a bright start with some rain tonight. Outlook: changeable.

## ABROAD

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Algeria	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Amsterdam	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Antwerp	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Athens	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Berlin	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Bombay	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Buenos Aires	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Calcutta	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Cairo	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Cape Town	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Chennai	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Cologne	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Cyprus	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Dublin	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Edinburgh	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Frankfurt	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Glasgow	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Hamburg	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Helsinki	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Jersey	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
London	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Lyons	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Madrid	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Manchester	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Moscow	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Munich	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Norwich	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Oxford	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Paris	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Perth	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Prague	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Rome	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
St Petersburg	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Stockholm	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Toronto	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Valencia	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Warsaw	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Wellington	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Winnipeg	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Zurich	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27

## AROUND BRITAIN

City	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
London	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Manchester	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Birmingham	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Cardiff	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Edinburgh	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Glasgow	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Leeds	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Liverpool	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Newcastle	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Nottingham	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Sheffield	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Southampton	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Stoke	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Swansea	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Torquay	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27
Wrexham	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27	23/27

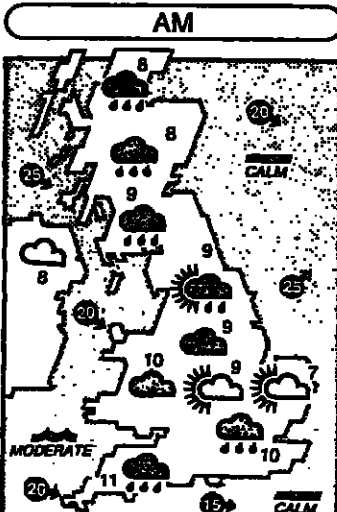
These are Saturday's figures

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0850 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Bucks, Dorset	705
Devon & Cornwall	706
North Devon, Devon	707
North Devon, Devon	708
West Devon, Devon	709
West Devon, Devon	710
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West Devon, Devon	725
West Devon, Devon	726
West Devon, Devon	727

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak). Includes pollen count.



## POLLEN COUNT

The pollen count for London and the South-east issued by the Asthma Research Council at 10 am yesterday was 23 (low). Forecast for today, low. For the next 24 hours call National Pollen and Hay Fever Bureau: 0858 500428 (updated at midday).

## YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Belfast	12	SE	100
Birmingham	13	SE	100
Blackpool	13	SE	100
Bristol	13	SE	100
Cardiff	14	SE	100
Edinburgh	15	SE	100
Glasgow	15	SE	100

## LIGHTING-UP TIME

City	Lighting-up time
London	5.11 pm to 4.47 am
Belfast	5.21 pm to 4.56 am
Edinburgh	5.20 pm to 4.32 am
Manchester	5.31 pm to 4.44 am
Perthshire	5.26 pm to 5.15 am

## HIGH TIMES

City	High	Low</
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# BUSINESS

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

MONDAY JUNE 4 1990

## Bernard denies Sears bid reports

By MATTHEW BOND

MR ELLIOTT Bernard has denied reports that he is to lead a consortium bid for Sears, the retail giant.

"I am constantly told that I am looking at this company and that. At the present time, we are concentrating on Laing Properties, which we jointly acquired with P&O. That is quite enough to keep us occupied at the moment," he said.

Mr Bernard was responding to Press reports that he had teamed up with Mr Nelson Peltz, the American businessman now chairman of Mountleigh, the British property group, and Mr Jack Deila, the property dealer, to launch a £1.5 billion bid for Sears.

It is less than two months since Chelmsfield, Mr Bernard's private company, and P&O won the acrimonious battle for control of Laing Properties, their joint venture vehicle, paid \$492 million for Laing.

## Saatchi sell-off talks continue

Talks aimed at agreeing a management buyout of the Hay Group from Saatchi & Saatchi will continue this week, with no guarantee that a deal will be agreed in time for tomorrow's interim results.

If a deal is concluded, Hays is expected to bring in about half of the £80 million Saatchi hopes to raise by selling its six management consultancy businesses. Saatchi spent about £250 million acquiring them although subsequent sales make a direct comparison of the two figures difficult.

## Oilfield move

Chevron, the US oil group, has added the Tengiz oilfield, which it claims is the biggest discovered in the past decade, to a planned joint venture with the Soviet Union, in the Caspian Sea. Chevron said the field should start producing in two years and could produce up to 500,000 barrels a day.

## Economists still condemn Thatcherism

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE economics profession in Britain seems largely unrepentant. In 1981, 364 academic economists wrote a letter to *The Times* condemning the policies of the Thatcher Government and claiming that the British economy would never recover without government action. A new survey\* shows that economists remain unconvinced of many of the central tenets of Thatcherism.

Among the findings of the survey, which was conducted for the Institute of Economic Affairs and covered 1,000 economists, are:

- 77 per cent think unemployment can be reduced in the short term by accepting higher inflation;
- 76 per cent believe government spending stimulates the economy more than tax cuts;
- 66 per cent are against reductions in the

level of public spending;

- 66 per cent believe that the European Monetary System is superior to a floating exchange rate system;
- 64 per cent do not believe that the main concern of economic policy should be to eliminate inflation.

Economists remain divided over some of the central issues of economic policy debate during the past fifteen years, for instance, whether inflation is, or is not, primarily a monetary phenomenon and whether wage and price controls should be used to control inflation — a small majority believing they should not.

They believe that the power of the trade unions is not a significant economic problem, but they believe the Government should have stronger powers to control takeovers and should use anti-trust laws vigorously to reduce

monopoly power. About 64 per cent believe financial markets are inefficient because short-term returns are the dominant influence.

A large majority believes that income in developed nations should be more equally distributed and that such redistribution is a legitimate task for government. They agree, however, that a minimum wage is likely to increase unemployment among young and unskilled workers.

The survey, which was carried out by Professor Martin Ricketts and Edward Shoemith of the University of Buckingham, is based on a questionnaire previously used for surveys in the US, Canada, Austria, France, Germany and Switzerland.

British opinion appears to be more conventionally "Keynesian" than American with more economists prepared to agree that in the

short run, unemployment can be reduced by accepting an increase in inflation. British economists are also slightly more redistributionist than those in other countries.

Unlike the overseas surveys, the IEA survey covered economists in industry and government as well as in universities. Business economists appear to be happier with the Thatcher revolution than academics.

The older the respondent the more likely he is to be sceptical of the usefulness of wage and price controls in controlling inflation. Women, however, are generally less "monetarist" than men.

\* *British Economic Opinion: A Survey of a Thousand Economists* by Martin Ricketts and Edward Shoemith. Institute of Economic Affairs, £7.95.

Economic View, Page 23

## B&C poised to call in administrator

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH & Commonwealth, the stricken financial services group, is likely to have administrators appointed today despite an eleventh hour attempt to save its merchant banking subsidiary.

Sir Peter Thompson and Mr John Gunn, B&C's chairman and chief executive, spent the weekend trying to arrange a £100 million loan facility for British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank.

This came after the decision by the Securities and Investments Board on Friday to remove BCMB from the list of banks where authorized firms can raise money.

A new facility would have allowed the SIB to lift the order before business started today. A failure to find one will trigger a rush of customers demanding their deposits, with other B&C subsidiaries alone expected to demand more than £100 million. The run is expected to render the bank virtually worthless.

BCMB in turn was a vital component in B&C's rescue plans. SG Warburg, the group's adviser, has already circulated sale particulars, and the disposal was expected to have raised at least £90 million, to begin repaying estimated debts of £1.3 billion.

If it fails, bankers see little point in keeping the rest of the group out of administration.

The SIB's move came after

after Midland, Lloyds and Hongkong & Shanghai banks decided they were not going to renew the previous back-up loan arrangement, which expired last weekend.

The facility is effectively an insurance policy, allowing the bank to pay depositors in an emergency without having to call in loans. Without it, BCMB does not have the liquidity to satisfy SIB requirements. Since the facility expired, BCMB has operated on a daily basis, while B&C made desperate attempts to find a renewal.

These included personal visits by Sir Peter, to Sir Kit McMahon and Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairmen of Midland and Lloyds respectively, to ask them to reconsider.

Other banks were unwilling to take their place in the facility since it would have increased their exposure to the troubled group.

When it was clear these efforts had failed on Friday evening, Mr David Walker, chairman of the SIB, made the order. This was interpreted as an attempt to hurry negotiations but may have simply hastened the end.

The action taken by the three banks reflected growing disillusionment of senior creditors over the group's reconstruction plans, devised by Warburg.

The initial version asked senior lenders to take a 25 per cent write-down, and although

the latest proposal reduces this, in exchange for an interest moratorium, it was still not welcomed.

"We always worked on the assumption that British & Commonwealth was worth a lot more to us alive than dead," said one of the senior lenders. "Now some people seem to have decided otherwise."

If B&C goes into administration, it will mark the failure of the market-led rescue for which the Bank of England hoped.

The Bank of England has been notable by its absence from most of the B&C negotiations, believing that while depositors were protected, the operation should be governed by the banks' commercial decisions rather than a centralized lifeline.

It did agree, however, to act as a deposit taker for the proceeds of B&C's disposals and distribute them to the multitude of creditors.

Barclays, as senior lender, has worked hard to keep the holding company operating to allow an orderly asset disposal and the highest possible prices.

Warburg previously calculated the disposal proceeds would drop from £825 million to £483 million if the group went into administration.

It has also warned junior lenders they are unlikely to receive any repayment in an administration.



In command: Michel Malschaert, the Belgian car rally driver, who organized the Challengers Trophy in Scotland. Described as a cross between *It's a Knockout* and a Para assault course, the event attracted 92 business teams. Details, page 22

## CoCom export controls may go

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE Co-ordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls (CoCom) is expected this week to agree to lift restrictions which have hampered trade with Eastern Europe.

The decision, to be taken at a meeting on Wednesday and Thursday in Paris, will give Eastern European countries much improved access to Western technology. CoCom, whose members include the Nato countries, as well as Japan and Australia, has banned most high technology exports on defence security grounds.

Most importantly, CoCom is expected to begin lifting restrictions on telecommunications, regarded as crucial for Eastern Europe's economic recovery because Western companies are unwilling to invest there when basic infrastructure is lacking.

It is expected that after this week's meeting, CoCom will establish working groups to draft revised rules and lists, which would become effective later this year.

Senior officials in West Germany, one of the countries with most to gain from a relaxation of the rules, believe that following the US-Soviet summit in Washington the list may be cut to only a handful of primary defence-related product categories — down from a current 120 — which would still include nuclear and marine technology.

Most other banned items, like computers and telecommunications equipment, would be allowed on certain provisions.

CoCom has already agreed to relax most of its rules with regard to East Germany, although subject to re-exporting restrictions.

Siemens, the West German electronics company, has already reached an agreement with East Germany, where only seven out of 100 people have a telephone, to take part in the construction of a mobile telecommunications network. A Siemens spokesman said that negotiations with Poland are at an advanced stage, and preliminary talks were also being held with the Czechoslovakian government.

Siemens and Alcatel have also agreed to form joint venture companies in the Soviet Union for the production of digital exchanges. However, none of these agreements can be implemented under the current CoCom restrictions.

## Export prospects may halt rise in jobless say chambers

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SURGE in British export prospects may allow the country to avoid the steep rise in unemployment widely anticipated by economic forecasters, according to a survey by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

But renewed growth in employment would dash hopes of a softer jobs market having a moderating effect on pay demands, which are still being driven by the spectre of double digit inflation sometime this summer.

The quarterly survey, which covers 2,821 businesses in 11 regions, is more extensive than other business surveys.

First quarter figures show that while recent employment

performance has been poor, expectations for future employment are improving.

Larger businesses are reporting greater strength in export markets and confidence in future profitability, while smaller businesses appear to be more positive about home orders, jobs, investment and turnover.

Among manufacturers, 14 per cent more businesses are expected to take on more employees than those expecting to shed labour. This positive balance compared with 6 per cent in the final quarter of last year.

A similar trend can be seen in the service sector which accounts for more than a half

of national output. The positive balance in services has risen to 26 per cent from 13 per cent. All regions, except the North East, report improved employment expectations, with particularly strong employment growth expected in the Thames Valley, the South West and Wales, with London and the East Midlands anticipating particular growth in services.

Smaller businesses in the service sector are the most optimistic about expanding their workforce.

Export expectations have risen "exceptionally" with 27 per cent more firms expecting higher orders than those expecting less.

## Packer takes control of Bond Media

BOND Media Ltd has reached an agreement with Mr Kerry Packer's Consolidated Press Holdings on a recapitalization of Bond Media, giving Mr Packer control of BM.

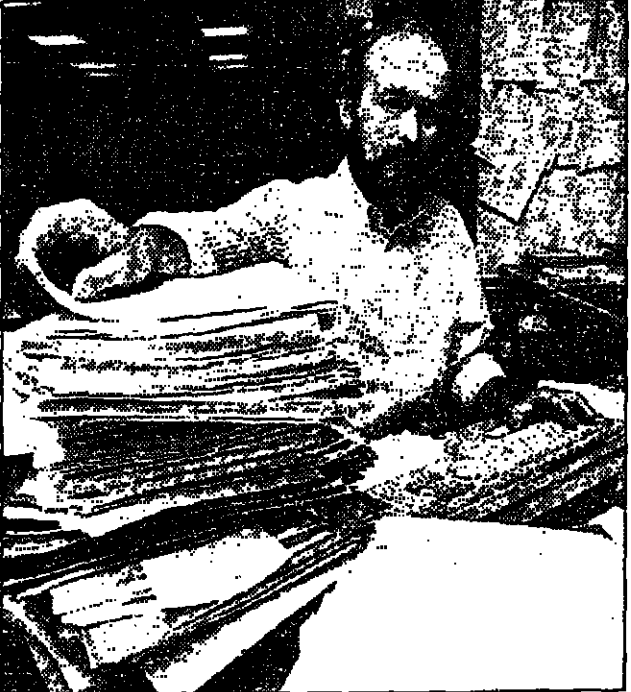
This involves a capital reconstruction of Bond Media's ordinary shares and the conversion of existing preference shares held by Consolidated Press into ordinary shares.

Mr Packer, the former owner of Bond Media's main asset, the Nine television network, is owed Aus\$200 million (£91 million) and said he would wind up the company unless he was repaid.

The agreement is subject to the approval of a National Australia Bank-led syndicate of banks which are owed Aus\$367 million.

## SE speeds up share stake news

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT



Busy weekend: Anderson of the SE's news service

MORE than 400 announcements of share stakes of between 3 and 5 per cent will be published on the Stock Exchange's electronic screens today, thanks to a working weekend by Mr Doug Anderson, the head of the Stock Exchange's regulatory news service and 11 of his staff.

They collated the electronic and fax announcements from companies and who prepared them for transmission. The announcements are required by the 1989 Companies Act, which ruled that stakes of as little as 3 per cent must be declared to the companies concerned within two working days; these provisions came into force on Friday.

The build-up of announcements started before Whitsun. Last Tuesday, it climbed to 66, compared with about 30 a day under the old system, rising to 121 on Wednesday,

187 on Thursday and more than 300 on Friday. Mr Anderson said he had enough work to keep one-fifth of his staff busy during the weekend but he expected the tide to rise until Wednesday.

About 2,000 extra announcements are expected. Most of them are routine holdings by institutional investors, but important information is also coming out, such as Severn Trent's revelation that Compagnie Générale des Eaux, the secretive French group, had built up a 4 per cent holding just after water privatization.

Under special Stock Exchange arrangements to open its news service early and go on late this week, the announcements are scheduled to come out in an early-morning batch, starting at 6.30 am with more at lunchtime and between 6 pm and 7 pm.

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# Challengers Trophy won by team from PowerGen

By BARRY PICKTHALL

SENIOR executives will be limping back to the City today, bearing the scars of battle in the Scottish Highlands, after representing their companies in the first British Challengers Trophy, the largest corporate business sporting event in Europe.

A cross between *It's a Knockout* and a full Para assault course, the four-day trial attracted 92 teams from as far afield as Belgium and The Netherlands. The competitors used more than 7,000 metres of bandage and 50 litres of midge repellent.

It is a credit that all the teams that could completed the course, though there were casualties.

Mr Frank Prendergast, from Superdrive, was forced out with torn leg ligaments, on the first night, while playing a friendly football match, incurring a six-hour penalty for his team, and Mr Edwin Hall, from Ricoh, was taken to hospital suffering severe dehydration, at the end of the first run. The Broad Street communications team complained of similar pangs, but blamed its support team for dosing up team members with wine during the lunch-break.

"It has been like doing a marathon in the morning, a marathon in the afternoon and another at night for four days," Mr John Shelton-Smith, from the winning PowerGen team, said.

PowerGen beat an Ordnance Survey team by 3 minutes 20 seconds to claim a place in the Pan-European Challengers championship in

two years. Allied Dunbar, whose representatives were culled from a group of 500, finished third.

Some teams were let down by senior management. Mr Peter Bazeley, a director of Mercury Communications, arrived just as the curtains closed on the first day's activities for chief executives, losing his team the chance of earning an easy 15 minutes and any extra points he may have picked up with his archery skills. "There was a lack of communication somewhere," he said.

The effort of the Samuel Montagu team was thrown into disarray by the Rank/Mecca bid on Friday. Mr Rupert Pousonby, director of corporate finance, had taken the precaution of bringing his telephone, only to find it failed to work in the Trossachs mountains. The message was delivered by hand, and the team was last seen hailing a helicopter for a meeting in London on Saturday.

The course required equal amounts of brain and brawn. A Dutch team, representing Alcatel Bell, was stumped by the corporate crossword puzzle clues but overcame them with a computerized list of 1,046 location names and matching map references.

The Hertz team was caught out with only one map between the four members when they came to split up during the mountain stage, but the team was also let down by its support team whose Transit bus came to a grinding halt. The all-women team from



River crossing: the Halifax Building Society team waded through the water



Map reading: the team from Comex, which finished tenth, study the clues



Injured: AMI Healthcare orderlies applied more than 7,000 metres of bandages

Bankers Trust was caught out on television midway through a shouting match, but Miss Nell Cady, the bank's vice-president, made up for the infighting on the last day by stripping off and swimming across the river stage while others waited for a kayak.

Her initiative saved the team 30 minutes, winning it first place among the women's teams. Fights apart, Miss Cady and her followers were so impressed with the exercise that, like other executives,

they now intend to return with multiple teams next year. 1 PowerGen 3; 2 Ordnance Survey; 3 Allied Dunbar; 4 ICL Products Ops; 5 Alcatel Bell; 6 Stirling Council; 7 PowerGen 1; 8 Apple 1; 9 Shell UK; 10 Comex UK.

## Graham Wood wins rail deal

GRAHAM Wood, the contracting and construction group which came to the market last year, has won a contract believed to be worth more than £8 million.

Wood, which is based in Brentford, west London, and specializes in structural steelwork, is to build the Canary Wharf station roof structure, which is part of the Docklands Light Railway. Work is due to start in November, with completion in December next year.

Mr Tom Goldberg, the chairman, said: "This contract brings the orders received in the last six weeks to about £16 million." The group's turnover is expected to reach £38 million in the current year, compared with £28 million last year. The station roof will be constructed by Wood's Bright & White subsidiary and will consist of a central high-level roof arching 25 metres above the platforms.

## Phoenix sold by Deutsche Bank

Phoenix Securities, the corporate finance specialist, has been sold by Deutsche Bank in a management buyout for less than £15 million.

The company specializes in advising financial companies on mergers and acquisitions and was founded by Mr John Craven, now the head of Morgan and a Deutsche director.

Phoenix was bought for £15 million by Morgan Grenfell in 1987. Since Deutsche won control of Morgan for £950 million last autumn, it has been looking at ways of selling the business.

## S&N unworried by bid reports

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries is unworried by reports that Mr David Vanstone, a former head of finance in Britain for Elders IXL, is attempting to put together a hostile bid.

Mr Vanstone set up Scorpio, a corporate finance group, after leaving Elders last year. A spokesman for S&N was sceptical about Mr Vanstone's ability to raise the funds.

## WH Smith silent on merger talk

Sir Simon Hornby, the chairman of WH Smith, would not comment yesterday on speculation that Smith is to merge Do-It-All, its do-it-yourself subsidiary, with the Payless chain, owned by Boots.

A combined chain would have 230 outlets, but would still be smaller than Kingfisher's B&Q chain and Ladbroke's Texas Homecare.

## US NOTEBOOK

# June should prove whether scramble for cash is over

In retrospect, we can see why the break in bond yields at the end of April was so tight.

During March, April and May, the growth of payroll employment in the United States has collapsed.

In the three months to March, payroll employment (boosted, no doubt, by some weather-induced distortions) rose by 743,000. In the three months to May, it rose a mere 264,000.

Factory employment in the United States is disintegrating.

In the past three months, factory employment has fallen by 87,000 to its lowest level since 1987 (and to the same level reached in 1972).

During May, there was a remarkable relaxation of pressure in world financial markets.

The stress and strain — and the massive losses of wealth — that marked the first four months of 1990 appear to be passing, to be replaced by a regime of lower interest rates, weaker commodity prices, higher stock prices and falling credit demand.

This is a momentous change, and if it is confirmed by further advances this month, we may even be able to say that the day, May 4, 1990, was some sort of turning point.

On that day, the US Long Bond rose 1½ points, the UK Gilts (bonds) rose 2½ and German Bunds (bonds) rose 1½.

This day may prove to have been an historic turning point — the end of the process of asset liquidation and the scramble for cash that so depressed financial markets and caused such enormous losses of wealth in the first four months of the year.

Other signs of a major change that may be developing are:

● The Commodity Research Bureau index of commodity figures prices has tumbled five points in three days, to a level little different from that in early April.

● Gold remains exceptionally weak, and, at \$363, is at about the level it reached in early 1986, more than four years ago.

● US money growth has subsided again. There has been no increase in Money

M2 since the week of March 5. This is a most pleasing development. Also, there are hopeful signs that the monetary base has stopped growing. So we have had nearly three months of zero growth in M2. This is very good news.

What is more, since April 18, the monetary base has risen only about \$1 billion, a substantial deceleration. The three-months growth of the monetary base has now fallen below 7 per cent. The six-months growth was 8.1 per cent.

Between November and March, the monetary base grew over 9 per cent a year.

These money numbers will help to provide confidence to the bond market and the dollar, and to undermine commodity prices.

● Federal Reserve policy was clearly stated to be "unchanged" in mid-May when, on May 17 and 18, the Fed did "matched sales" (cash drain) on two successive days. This action, including the fear of a premature "ease" by the Fed underpinned confidence in the financial markets wonderfully (just as it was intended to do).

● The dollar remains quite firm. The June US Dollar Index contract has recovered to over 93 — where it was back in mid-February.

A If these signs of monetary relaxation and of a return to a disinflationary policy by the Federal Reserve have provided strong underpinning to stock and bond prices throughout the world.

Since the end-April peak, the Japanese 10-year Bond has fallen close to 50 basis points in yield; the 2003 UK Gilt has fallen nearly 100 basis points from its peak; and 12-month Labor has dropped over 60 basis points.

So far, the drastic decline that has been seen in employment in America has not produced any increase in the unemployment rate.

Maybe a lot of the workers who are disappearing from factory and other goods-producing payrolls are going straight into retirement or on to company pension plans.

Maxwell Newton  
New York

## HKSE plans clampdown on discounted cash call abuses

From LULU YU  
IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong Stock Exchange is to clamp down on deeply discounted rights issues under a new set of listing rules just released.

In the past, several family-owned listed companies have given shareholders a tough time by repeatedly announcing rights issues, many of them at a large discount to the share price and often under-

written by the majority shareholder. Small shareholders have had either to pay up and see the value of the individual shares fall, or allow their holdings to be diluted.

In some circumstances large and/or repeated rights issues, or open offers, particularly if made at a deep discount and/or underwritten by the majority shareholder, can be abusive of minority shareholders," said Mr Mark

Hanson, the exchange's director in charge of listings.

But now the exchange is insisting that companies planning any rights issue which increase the issued share capital or market capitalization of a company by more than 50 per cent over a 12-month period are told to obtain prior approval from independent shareholders, be fully underwritten and provide full details of the purpose of the share issue.

## Easterbrook control battle goes to court

By MATTHEW BOND

THE battle for control of Easterbrook Alford, the cutting tool manufacturer, will reach the High Court this week as James Wilkes, the engineering group, fights for control of a vital 9 per cent of Easterbrook's shares.

Wilkes launched a £12 million contested bid for the privately-owned Easterbrook in January and claimed acceptance from shareholders accounting for 53 per cent of

Easterbrook's shares. But about 16 Easterbrook shareholders, collectively owning 9 per cent, changed their minds when Record Holdings, the power tool maker, launched a 750p a share bid (94p higher than Wilkes) a week later.

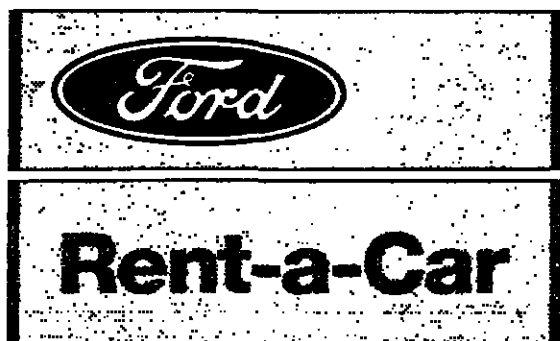
The High Court case will determine whether the 16 shareholders' earlier acceptance of the Wilkes' bid had been irrevocable, is expected to last about 10 days.

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## Privatization of Greek firms may be based on British lines

By PHILIP PANGALOS

GREECE'S Conservative government has unveiled a long overdue budget, which will result in a record fiscal deficit, but has given assurances that stricter spending curbs will be applied next year.

Mr Yiannis Paliokrassas, the Finance Minister, said the budget — a 29.8 per cent rise to 5,530 billion drachmas (£19 billion) in state spending — was transitional and the government's policy would become clear in the 1991 budget.

Revenues are expected to advance 39.9 per cent to Dr3,460 billion.

The government has also revealed plans to privatize 21 of the heavily indebted state-owned industrial companies and close seven "ailing industries," with more state companies facing a similar fate.

The companies, which belong to the Industrial Reconstruction Organization (IRO), will be publicly offered on the Athens stock market or sold directly to private buyers, Greek and foreign.

Mr Yannis Grammatidis, who is based at the London offices of Balas, Grammatidis & Associates, a leading Greek law firm which specializes in privatization, said the programme of privatization may be based on the British model.

The companies, some of which are in profit and are being revalued by banks and investment advisers, are in sectors ranging from cement making and shipyards to textiles and tourism.

Defence manufacturers, electricity, telephone and Olympic Airways, as well as other companies that are deemed to be of national importance, will remain under state control for some time.

Mr Grammatidis said some of the companies are already listed on the Athens Stock Exchange and may issue new shares.

Others could be listed, while a third category consists of companies which are not viable and may be liquidated.

This may be a time which presents opportunities for investors although they will have to be convinced that the economy really is on the mend as Greece faces the most ser-



Change of direction: Constantine Mitsotakis

ious economic problems of any member of the European Community.

After April's election, the Athens Stock Exchange welcomed the thought of a stable government, reflected by a week of meteoric rises in heavy trading in anticipation of a liberalization of the economy and of state-run problem companies being sold to the private sector.

However, the Greek government's recent austerity programme has gained a mixed reception.

Outside commentators and economists see the moves as a step in the right direction, but last month's 24-hour general strike challenged the Government's efforts to combat inflation and a huge budget deficit.

A series of sharp rises in consumer taxes and utility charges are intended to boost state income, but will also increase the annual inflation rate by an estimated 4 per cent.

Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, Greece's Prime Minister, and a team of investment specialists have been visiting European capitals in a bid to win support and investments for Greece's recovery.

He has just started a 10-day official visit to the United States, where he will meet with

also took a 30 per cent stake in Kaloyannis Bros, a producer of ouzo.

These takeovers signalled the inclusion of Greece in the strategies of international companies when planning their southern European operations.

It is believed "investment incentive packages" are being considered as part of the attempt to convince foreign investors, the majority of whom do not take investment in Greece seriously, to make investments, and that there will be long-term stability.

The Conservative New Democracy party had pledged to sell to the private sector and the measures are being made in an attempt to streamline operations in time for the single EC market in 1992.

After a recent visit to Athens, Mr Henning Christophersen, vice-president for economic affairs of the European Community executive, said he approved of Greece's efforts to cut the public sector deficit and reduce inflation but that further measures would be needed to turn the economy around.

He came to Athens to discuss the government's plans to deal with a huge total public deficit, a booming black economy (estimated to account for more than 25 per cent of gross domestic product), and a 17.8 per cent annual inflation rate, the highest in the EC.

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# Crowding in public investment

## ECONOMIC VIEW

RODNEY LORD

Labour's latest policy document opens the fascinating question of what is an appropriate fiscal rule for the UK economy. "As a general principle," says the document, "the non-investment expenditure from current revenues. Where appropriate, however, we will borrow in order to finance long-term productive investment in the economy, for instance in transport, training, research and development and regional investment. That is what any sensible business does."

The Government's habit of lumping together its current spending with its capital spending, and its current receipts with its capital receipts, to arrive at a single figure for the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) has long been under fire from purists. Capital spending is different in kind from current spending because it yields a return in the future.

It is therefore perfectly sensible to transfer some of the burden of financing the expenditure to the future by funding it through borrowing. While the Gov-

ernment has focused mainly on the PSBR, it has, from time to time, struggled with the idea of distinguishing capital from current expenditure and drawing up a national balance sheet.

It has also sought to relate the level of borrowing to the existing stock of debt. In his 1987 Budget, Nigel Lawson, the previous Chancellor, enunciated what proved to be a short-lived borrowing rule of 1 per cent of gross domestic product. The logic of this was that by restricting the PSBR to this level, the stock of government debt would not rise in relation to GDP even with zero inflation.

The 1 per cent rule was abandoned the following year in favour of the simplicity of a balanced budget. "There is, of course, no scientific formula for determining the 'right' size of the PSBR," said Mr Lawson at an earlier date. "But in practice, there are very real constraints on how much it is prudent to

borrow." One was the size of the debt burden, the other was the need to finance the PSBR comfortably in a non-inflationary way.

These practical constraints could loom rather larger than the sensible-sounding paragraphs in Labour's document seem to imply. By ending further privatization, Labour will reduce the present budget surplus to nearly zero.

If Labour then intends to fund all capital spending by borrowing, then the PSBR would increase enormously. Total public sector asset creation last year was estimated in the public expenditure White Paper at £27.3 billion — and that does not include the investment in human

skills which the party singles out as appropriate for debt financing.

Labour can hardly intend a PSBR of this size, though it is smaller, as a proportion of GDP, than in some years of the last Labour government. A more manageable option would be to finance all additional capital spending by borrowing.

The effect of higher borrowing by the Government will be to crowd out some less competitive projects in the private sector. Interest rates will rise to the point where the available savings balance the demand for borrowing.

Whether the economy will benefit at the end of the day depends on the social rate of return being earned on the

additional public investment. More and more people are inclined to believe there are projects, which the public sector should undertake, that will provide a worthwhile return. But given the public sector's poor record in achieving value for money, these should be strictly limited to those areas where the public sector can clearly do better than the private. In this context, Labour's willingness to consider private capital for infrastructure projects is modestly reassuring.

## A benchmark

The survey of views among economists published today by the Institute of Economic Affairs makes interesting reading. It is surprising to find that almost half still think that wage and price controls should be used to control inflation. However, I think the IEA is inclined to exaggerate the extent to which

the views elicited by the survey depart from the current consensus among non-economists. In many respects it does not even diverge far from Thatcherism as it has evolved, as opposed to Thatcherism as it is labelled by opponents.

Looking at the history of the British Gas privatization, many of the most Thatcherite members of the Government would agree with the 80 per cent of economists who believe that privatizing public enterprises will not cost unless combined with increased competition. There is also less enthusiasm for reducing public spending at the beginning of the 1990s than there was at the beginning of the 1980s.

The difficulty with surveys of this kind is that the questions lack subtlety. The fact that most economists apparently think unemployment can be reduced in the short term by accepting a bit more inflation begs the question of whether they think there is any advantage in the slightly longer term. Nevertheless, the survey provides much new information and a useful benchmark for future measurements of opinion.

## TEMPUS

### Room to manoeuvre for Rank

MICHAEL Gifford may have to decide over the next month or so whether Mecca Leisure shares are worth another 5p or 10p of Rank Organisation's money. What Rank shareholders can be pretty sure of, on past performance, is that he will not pay over the odds.

Never has the iron been hotter than when Rank struck on Friday, with Mecca confronted by a mountain of debt, and a quicksand of a market into which to make disposals.

Despite the fighting talk, Mecca looks odds-on to a Rank subsidiary come late summer, barring a Monopolies Commission reference.

Friday's markets suggested that Rank could win with this bid, but Rank has obviously left itself room for manoeuvre, and the introduction of a cash sweetener and/or an increase towards £1 a share would not wreck the Gifford strategy.

At worst, such a deal would be earnings neutral, and would leave the combined group with gearing of between 50 per cent and 60 per cent, comfortable enough given the strong interest cover afforded by the straight cash it pulls out of Rank Xerox.

Opportunities for savings will abound, and Gifford's record in tightening up the Rank ship speaks for itself. The Mecca management is capable, but hamstrung by the

need to sell good businesses to pay off the debts.

Earnings projections of 83p or more this year, *cum Mecca*, indicate that Rank is selling on a p/e multiple comfortably under 10. It will look no worse if the bid fails, and Gifford can be expected to walk away if the price is driven higher by the rumoured third bidder. Rank shares were a "buy" a week ago, and still are.

That said, after a sprightly debut, the shares face a two-way pull in the immediate future between the medium-term earnings prospects and regular bouts of bid speculation.

Opposed by a slow-down in earnings this year due, mainly, to a high tax charge.

How these competing factors resolve themselves depends in no small measure on how Mr Stephen Walls, WTA's chairman, makes use of the honeymoon period he will certainly be granted by the market.

If the bid prospects are tough to assess, the plus points are straightforward. WTA has excellent brands with NCR, IDEM and Conqueror the best known. Its management has taken WTA

out of most of the commodity businesses within a notoriously cyclical industry.

The shares are also protected from the current agonies of the British economy with 80 per cent of profits overseas. The balance sheet looks beefy with just 25 per cent gearing and interest cover almost in double figures.

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Opposed by a slow-down in earnings this year due, mainly, to a high tax charge.

How these competing factors resolve themselves depends in no small measure on how Mr Stephen Walls, WTA's chairman, makes use of the honeymoon period he will certainly be granted by the market.

If the bid prospects are tough to assess, the plus points are straightforward. WTA has excellent brands with NCR, IDEM and Conqueror the best known. Its management has taken WTA

## Water profits

NORTH West and Thames should give a cheerful start to the water profits season by beating their pro forma prospectus profit forecasts modestly, though some others facing flat or lower earnings this year might want to tuck a little away if they can.

In practice, earnings count for little in the short term

## Why the Bundesbank finds itself in a dilemma



Pöhl position: the Bundesbank president cannot win

THERE are growing concerns that the West German Bundesbank, much applauded in Britain for its independence, may be suffering from an identity crisis. Most recently this has been evidenced during an unusual announcement by Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, Bundesbank president.

In a recent speech, Herr Pöhl denied there was a rift between himself and the West German government over the pace and financing of German monetary union. Many observers were stunned since they thought they had witnessed little else but discord since the idea of monetary union was born in March.

Their scepticism was confirmed later during Herr Pöhl's speech, when he attacked the DM115 billion (£40 billion) German unity fund. Although not opposed to the idea in principle, he regards the fund's structure as fiscally dangerous since it is based on borrowings rather than savings in state budgets. His criticism, of course, amounts to nothing less than an attack on the government itself.

Herr Pöhl has probably not forgotten the humiliation of first reading about the fund in a newspaper. In an immediate reaction, he called the report inaccurate but only a few hours later he heard the government confirm the story. It was evident that Herr Pöhl, arguably the world's most powerful central banker, had once again not been consulted.

The same is true for the original proposal of monetary union, which even the East German government learned about in a televised news conference in Bonn. In April, the Bundesbank recommended an exchange rate of one West German Deutschmark for two Ostmarks, except for the first 2,000 Ostmarks of an individual's savings. Herr Pöhl argued at the time that there was no scope for greater generosity on the grounds that higher instant spending power in East Germany would prove to be inflationary.

Later, the Bundesbank's proposals were overturned by Chancellor Helmut Kohl who promised an individual ceiling of DM4,000; DM6,000 for pensioners.

This lack of cohesion between Bonn and Frankfurt has been put succinctly by Herr Wilhelm Nöbling, of the Bundesbank council: "The Government has to stop acting as if the autonomy of the Bundesbank has been put aside for the process of reunification."

Herr Nöbling, a Social Democrat, has become a monetary hardliner. Like Herr Helmut Schlesinger, Bundesbank vice-president, he issued a warning that interest rates might have to rise to restore confidence in the mark. On German money markets, there is now some expectation that interest rates will go up before December.

The question of Bundesbank independence, some-

thing taken for granted elsewhere, is increasingly called into question in Germany.

The Bundesbank is caught by a dilemma hidden in its own constitution. While it is independent on day-to-day monetary policy, it has to ensure price stability and support the government's general economic policy. The problem for the Bundesbank arises if it perceives the two to be in conflict, which is evidently the case at present. Perhaps for the first time during his 10 years in office Herr Pöhl finds himself in a no-win situation.

This uncomfortable situation has not gone unnoticed in financial markets. The mark has been weakening against the dollar and sterling. Money market rates are edging up. Mr Jonathan Hoffman, a Lon-

don-based economist at Credit Suisse First Boston, summed up the sentiment when he said: "There are all sorts of inconsistencies that don't add up. This is not the Bundesbank the markets are used to and happy with."

The Bundesbank's problems are also likely to have implications on the debate over European monetary union. The European Commission is now understood to favour a European central bank, based closely on the Bundesbank. It would be independent of the Commission itself and the Council of Ministers, although it may have to justify its actions to the European Parliament.

Whatever constitution the new European Central Bank will adopt, it is unlikely to provide for more independence than enjoyed by the Bundesbank — probably less, since the French and Italian governments have not entirely given up on the principle of what they call "democratic accountability." One may draw the conclusion that if the Bundesbank's independence is not strong enough to stop its own government from conducting allegedly inflationary policies, the same would be even more true for the relationship between a European Central Bank and whoever is going to be responsible for European economic policy.

Since the Bundesbank's influence over the shape of monetary union has been minimal, its single weapon against a resulting rise in inflation is the interest rate. The markets do not expect a rise before July 2, the day German monetary union will become effective.

On the other hand, the Bundesbank is known occasionally to catch the markets — and the politicians — by surprise. The West German elections are scheduled for December, and pressure will grow on the Bundesbank — not only from inside Germany — to keep rates unchanged at least until then. Its reaction will be an indication of its anti-inflationary commitment and independence.

Wolfgang Münchau

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### SIB unhinged over seating

THERE can be few stockbrokers or analysts who have not had a tongue-lashing from one of the notoriously tough regulators who these days prowls the Square Mile. But few firms can be as strict with their staff as the SIB, under the iron fist of Mr David Walker, its chairman, when it comes to internal rule enforcement. For secretaries and other clerical staff in Moor House, its black-marbled headquarters off London Wall, are banned from sitting in the offices which surround the rather crowded open-plan floor because — wait for it — they are reserved for staff of a higher grade. The situation came to a head recently when supervisors found that there were simply not enough chairs to go round, even though the surrounding offices still had plenty of space. Faced with such a complex moral dilemma, and reluctant to let the rules slip even once, it was finally decided to take one of the doors off its hinges so that that particular office could be reclassified as "open-plan."

### Smoking room

THE anti-smoking lobby — out in force at BAT's annual meeting at the Queen Elizabeth Centre in London last week — must have thought it a time that it had made its point. Not a puff of smoke came from the formidable line-up on the platform,

comprising chairman Patrick Sheehy and 13 directors. But after nearly an hour — and while explaining that it was simply a coincidence that the meeting had been held on a "World Against Smoking" day — Sheehy lit up. And two fellow directors promptly followed suit. Clearly determined that the company would have the last word — or puff of smoke — all shareholders were then given three free packets of its best-selling cigarette.

### Hogan's choice

BRUNSWICK, the financial PR firm started three years ago by Alan Parker, son of former British Rail chairman Sir Peter Parker, will today appoint a new main board director, bringing the number on its board to six. Alison Hogan, once a City reporter for the *Daily Mail* and the *Financial Times*, who switched to PR five years ago,

has accepted Brunswick's offer after two years in New York where she was looking after international investor relations for rival City PR group, Valin Pollen.

### Not so uplifting

MICHAEL Gifford, suave but gruff chief executive of the Rank Organisation, does not suffer fools gladly. So he was less than amused when eight leisure analysts, summoned on Friday to Schroders' headquarters in Chiswick for details of Rank's £512 million bid for Mecca, turned up 20 minutes late. But it was through no fault of their own. They had been trapped in one of Schroders' lifts — which are notorious for jamming at the slightest hint of an overweight body. The captives escaped by climbing up a ladder to the next floor. It had been lowered by technicians who had prised open the doors and were clearly quite practised at the procedure.

### Elephant man

ROBIN Woodhead's tale of near fatal adventure, when he clashed with a rogue elephant in Botswana, has earned him more than a nod of respect from awe-struck friends and colleagues. Woodhead, chief executive of National Investment Group, a regional broker, was travelling through the Chobe Game Reserve in a Land-Rover when the elephant charged. He has now been contacted by the company's ad agency, which wants

him to help promote the vehicles, renowned for their toughness. Always receptive to a good idea, Woodhead said he would be happy to oblige — in return for a three-week all expenses paid holiday in Botswana. But not to be outdone, the World Wildlife Fund has since telephoned to ask for a sizeable donation to the Save the Elephant Fund.

### Tenby move

LORD Tenby, grandson of David Lloyd George, the former Prime Minister, is again stepping up his activities in the City. Since "returning" from running the corporate affairs department at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, two years ago, Tenby, aged 62, has been a director of Williams Lea, the financial printer, and has become chairman of the magistrates' bench in Aldershot. Now he is distancing himself from Williams Lea — he remains a non-executive director — to become chairman of St James PR, a division of Lopex Communications. "I have known them on and off for 30 years, but it is the first time I will have worked on the other side of the fence, for an agency," he says. Anxious to make the most of his City connections, he says he sat on the committee examining the City of London Special Powers Bill. "But the only contested issue was about horse riding in Epping Forest, and whether or not people should be charged."

Carol Leonard

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## REPORTING THIS WEEK

## NFC expected to drive forward

## TODAY

NFC, the transport and distribution group headed by Sir Peter Thompson, is expected to report interim pre-tax profits of £37 million, against £32.6 million last time, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £35 million to £40 million.

Contract hire, logistics and property are expected to have performed well despite the more difficult economic background.

However, a weaker performance is likely from truck rental, domestic household removals and travel agents, which have been experiencing difficult conditions.

Interim Hardanger Properties, NFC, Sanderson Electronics, Philips Consumer Consumer Products, Channel Express Group, Chillingham Corporation, CML Microsystems, Cook (William), Leigh Interests, Opcomerica Corporation, Sketchley, Vibroplant. Economic statistics: UK official reserves (May), retail sales (April - final), credit business (April).

## TOMORROW

Argyll Group, the Safeway supermarkets company which is chaired by Mr Alistair Grant, should benefit from strong sales growth and a good increase in operating margins.

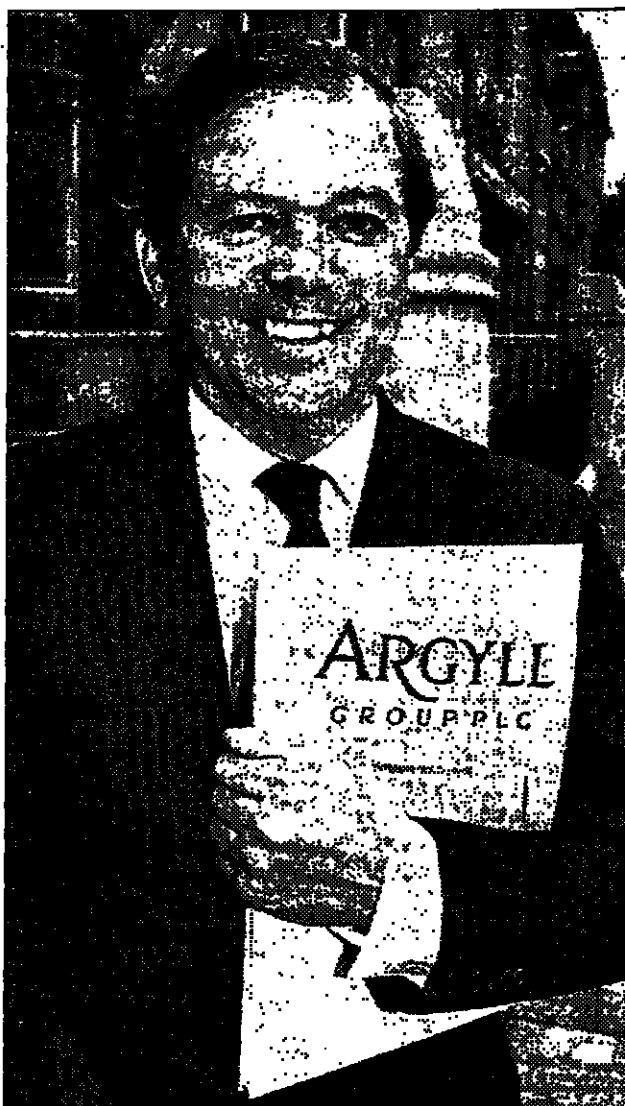
Mr David Skriver, of County NatWest WoodMac, is looking for a 29 per cent increase in final pre-tax profits to £230.2 million (£178.7 million), with market forecasts ranging from £220 million to £242 million.

Analysts expect interim pre-tax profits at Seatchi & Seatchi, the troubled advertising group, to drop from £20 million to between £12 million and £15 million.

Mr Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the chief executive, has been restructuring the group's advertising and marketing interests and is trying to reduce borrowings, estimated at £250 million. Most analysts believe the group will cut, or omit, its interim dividend, with some analysts doubtful whether there will be a full-year payment.

Good earnings growth is expected from North West Water, which will be the first of the 10 water companies to report its final profits since privatization.

UBS Phillips & Drew is looking for taxable profits of £179 million, with market



Forecast of £230 million: Alistair Grant, of Argyll

forecasts ranging from £172 million to £180 million.

Interim: Seatchi & Seatchi, Sturge Holdings, Warrington. Final: Allied Colloids, Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Apricot Computers, Argyll Group, Albion Brothers (Hosiery), Brown (N) Group, De La Rue, Great Portland Estates, Marshalls, North West Water Group, Onitama International, Powell Duffryn, Rowlinson Securities. Economic statistics: Company liquidity survey (first quarter).

## WEDNESDAY

Thames Water should comfortably exceed the forecasts made at the time of privatization. UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £187 million, which is at the top end of market forecasts, starting at £178 million. Information is awaited on

operating margins and volume growth as well as further news on Portals Water Treatment, which was acquired post-privatization.

The slowdown in British advertising expenditure and consumer spending will have had an effect on Reed International, the publishing group headed by Mr Peter Davis. Women's magazines are having a difficult time, with advertising revenue on some titles thought to be down by as much as 20 per cent.

In addition, analysts will be wanting to gauge the effects of the economic downturn on book publishing, where the Christmas trading is thought to have been a little disappointing.

Mr Tim Rothwell, of



£37 million predicted: NFC's Sir Peter Thompson

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, expects final pre-tax profits to climb from £271.2 million to £295 million, with market forecasts between £288 million and £305 million.

Interim: ABI Leisure Group, Johnson & Firth Brown, United Drug. Final: Calfins, Channel Tunnel Investments, Electrocomponents, Erskine House Group, Fletcher King, Hartwell, Kembley, Powerstream International, Reed International, Thames Water. Economic statistics: Advance energy statistics (April), overseas travel and tourism (March).

## THURSDAY

Boots, the chain of high street chemists led by Sir James Blyth, will announce a complicated set of figures, which will include the Ward White acquisition.

trading group headed by Mr Tiny Rowland, is thought likely to report interim pre-tax profits of £103 million, against £120 million, although the comparative period includes an exceptional gain of £38 million from the sale of whisky stocks.

Mr Richard Allan, of Kleinwort Benson, expects pre-tax profits at Northern Foods, the Hull food manufacturer headed by Mr Christopher Haskins, to climb from £85.3 million to £90 million for the full year. Forecasts range from £89 million to £92 million.

A confident statement is anticipated from the group, which is one of the biggest suppliers to Marks and Spencer.

Pilkington, the glass maker, has seen demand and supply for European flat and safety glass remain steady with further weakness in the British car and building markets. US glass profits will be affected by significantly lower car sales. However, this will be offset by booming West German residential construction.

Mr Graham Foster at Nomura Research has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £323 million, against £325 million, with market forecasts ranging from £318 million to £330 million.

This year's mild winter will have hit second-half growth at Vale and Valer, the security-to-heating appliances group.

Final pre-tax profits are expected to climb from £49.3 million to £57.5 million, according to BZW.

Interim: Crown Communications Group, Daily Mail and General Trust, French (Thomas) & Sons, Golden Hope Plantations, Lorrho, RCO Holdings. Final: Boots, Fashion & General Investment, Hunter Saphir, Lanza, New Throgmorton Trust (1989), Norcross, Northern Foods, Oxford Industries Group, Pilkington, Sanders & Sidney, The 600 Group, Thomson Pacific Investment Fund, Yale and Valor. Economic statistics: CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (May), manufacturers' investment intentions for 1990 and 1991, housing starts and completions (April), house renovations (first quarter).

## FRIDAY

Interim: Dwyer, Heavies Brewery, United Scientific Holdings. Final: Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers. Economic statistics: Construction output (first quarter).

Philip Pangalos

## BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK

## EC plans to make cross-border cash deals simpler

SIR LEON Brittan has said he wants European consumers to be able to pay for goods elsewhere in the EC or send money across borders as cheaply and swiftly as they can in their own country.

He will announce proposals soon, which may encourage banks to be more above-board about their charges and delays when carrying out international cash, cheque, credit card or bank transactions.

The European Commission's aim is to make sure that, by the end of this decade, Europe's payment systems "are ready for the 21st century," he told the London Chamber of Commerce on Friday.

Citing a small British company which was dissuaded from cashing a cheque from a French client because almost all would go on costs, he added that a common EC currency would make business far easier.

BRUSSELS is proposing to allow full copyright protection for semiconductors imported from those countries which offer similar safeguards to European products.

Japan, Sweden and Austria have passed the test and may enjoy unconditional protection, but the US and several European Free Trade Association (Efta) countries, plus the British and French overseas territories, have not, according to the EC.

These must make do with limited protection for their semiconductor "topographies" sold in Europe until they extend permanent intellectual property rights to their EC competitors.

The move still needs the approval of EC ministers.

MATSUSHITA of Japan has appealed to the European Court of Justice against "anti-dumping" duties imposed on its European sales of compact disc players by EC ministers in January. It was accused of setting artificially low prices, but Matsushita says this is unfair, as the EC incorrectly assessed the "normal" value of compact disc players in breach of its own rules.

Sources in Brussels expect the Japanese to challenge EC anti-dumping rules with increased confidence now that

Gatt has condemned the EC's controversial "scarecrow" provisions, designed to stop Japanese firms assembling goods in Europe to evade dumping duties.

GROWING fears that tough new US anti-drug laws may be pushing the drugs trade towards Europe have persuaded the EC to launch a big crackdown on the illegal export of chemicals used in the manufacture of drugs.

Proposed new rules will oblige exporters to forewarn customs of any shipments of six substances used to make heroin, cocaine and other lethal drugs, in accordance with the Vienna Convention, adopted in December, 1988.

The proposals still need the approval of EC governments and will have to be considered sufficiently manageable for the drugs industry itself before entering into operation.

The EC admits that it is acting in response to "fears of a major increase in deliveries coming directly or indirectly from Europe" since the new US laws came into force. EC governments should instruct customs and other bodies to delay or, if necessary, block the export of suspect cargoes.

The regulation also obliges member states to impose sanctions on offenders, although they may decide how tough those should be.

EUROPEAN high-technology research is to develop a green tinge after a decision to earmark most of a £650 million investment programme this year, under the Eureka scheme, for environment-related projects.

Eureka, through which 19 Western European governments partly fund collaborative research between their companies to tackle Japanese and US competition, will also fund robotics and biotechnology research.

Eureka will also strive this year to ensure that MAC, Europe's high-definition television standard, beats Japan's MUSE standard for world acceptance. Eureka's new green credentials are being promoted by Mr Koos Andriessen, the company's new chairman, who is Dutch.

Peter Guilford

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## Engineers discuss plans for merger

By DEREK HARRIS  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TWO of Britain's biggest professional engineering institutions have started merger talks which could lead to about half of all Britain's engineers being members of a single body.

It would be one of the biggest changes yet seen in this conservative profession, where there are still 47 different professional bodies.

The merger is between the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) and the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE). Between them they muster about 180,000 professional engineers.

The Institution of Production Engineers (IPROE), which has about 20,000 members, is discussing separately a merger with the IEE, but this would not affect the bigger merger, a joint IMechE/IEE announcement said.

A tentative completion date of 1992 for the IMechE/IEE merger has been talked about, but may not be realistic. Engineering bodies have traditionally been jealous of their individuality and issues like a new institutional name and how dual Royal Charters should be dealt with can generate drawn-out difficulties.

When IMechE members threw out an earlier proposed merger with the IPROE, a key issue was a change of institutional name.

There has been a recent flurry of mergers among engineering bodies.

The Society of Civil Engineering Technicians has merged with the sector's senior body, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Electrical and Electronic Incorporated Engineers has merged with the Society of Electronic and Radio Technicians, and balloting is going on in three bodies covering the metals, plastics and rubber sectors which could result in the launch of an Institute of Materials.

Sir William Barlow, chairman of the Engineering Council, the umbrella body for the profession, said an IMechE/IEE merger would be good for the engineers' image. "Too often the public perception is one of a fragmented profession. This can be especially damaging in the schools careers area and undermines the status of professional engineers and engineering," he said.

## OECD plays a dangerous game with global trade

By NEIL BENNETT

THE two-day ministers' meeting at the Organization for Economic Development and Co-operation in Paris last week was certainly not for the squeamish.

The gathering of the world's 24 richest nations developed into a dangerous game of brinkmanship between the world's two largest trading blocs, with the future of global trade as the stake. The dispute between the US and the European Community over agricultural subsidies was, as Mr Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury Secretary said, a disagreement waiting to happen.

By the time the rare divided communiqué was published on Thursday evening, the differences had been distilled into a few sentences. While both sides still agree to take urgent action to reduce agricultural subsidies, worth \$245 billion last year in the OECD countries, they have not moved any closer to deciding on the route.

The US, supported by Australia, New Zealand and Canada, wants to negotiate in three areas — market access, internal support and export subsidies. It wants to set reduction timetables in each, leading to eventual elimination. The position, however, is derided by Mr Ray MacSharry and Mr Franz Andriessen, the EC's Agriculture and Trade Commissioners.

Instead, the EC is trying to force adoption of its Aggregate Measure of Support (AMS), a gross valuation of all subsidies. This could then be used as a basis for reductions, but not until the US accepts the EC has reduced cereal subsidies by 10 per cent and meat and dairy ones by 15 per cent since 1988.

All this would be an amusing international incident, if it were not for the Uruguay round of talks in the Gatt. This must end in December, and unless it reaches an agreement, Mr John Crosbie, the Canadian Trade Minister, like others, foresees "an economic disaster for the world."

The Uruguay round was always an ambitious undertaking. Ninety-three countries gave themselves a four-year deadline to lay the ground rules for global trade worth \$3,600 billion a year.

The talks cover 15 key areas of goods and services. Agriculture, however, is the linchpin of the talks. A settlement on reforms here would encourage the countries to reach agreement on many of the smaller issues.

If they fail, the whole of Gatt will lose credibility, and world trade could deteriorate into a jungle of protectionism and petty unilateral sanctions. Gatt has spent more than three years in grinding negotiation. It now has just two months to agree the framework for the eventual agreement.

Mr MacSharry and Mr Andriessen refused to negotiate at the OECD meeting, claiming that Gatt talks in Geneva were the proper place. The US hopes the Europeans will be more flexible at the Group of Seven economic summit in Houston, Texas, in July since it believes it will take a high-level accord to kickstart Gatt back into action.

There are less than 50 days until the Trade Negotiations Committee meets in Geneva, and proposed compromises so far look unconvincing. Most observers now agree that if any agreement is reached in the Uruguay round at all, it will be signed in the last minutes of the dying year, and may contain large portions of fudge.

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Continued from page 15

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Sebastian Coe talks to Henry Cecil about the training of humans and racehorses

# Why racing's records have stood still

SPORT is the stuff of argument and fantasy. Misty-eyed, we all stretch our memories across events and eras. Who was the greatest? Ali or Joe Louis? Who deserves to be in the all-time world football team to play the time-travellers from Mars? How would Jack Hobbs have fared in the West Indies, against Marshall, Holding and Patterson?

To such discussions, I am forever on one side. By and large, today's competitors are better than their forebears. Nothing and no one stands still — even within the time warp of sport. But that (informed) prejudice has never spoiled my own enjoyment of the timeless comparisons of sporting prowess.

In my old "profession" of middle-distance running, there has been one persistent theme. Talking after training, too tired to go home, we have often pondered questions like: Are thoroughbred racehorses trained and developed like thoroughbred athletes? If middle-distance coaches can produce winning runners, why don't they switch to horses and make a lot more money?

I have just indulged this particular fantasy: I spent two hours at Warren Place, Newmarket, in the company of Henry Cecil, racehorse trainer supreme, whose current charges include Razzen, the favourite for the Derby on Wednesday.

How do the training methods of a man like Cecil compare with those inflicted on me by my father, Peter? I found that the interest was mutual. Cecil wanted to know about the development of an athlete and the preparation for a peak performance. We found much in common; but also, of course, much that was irrevocably different.

We agreed, quickly, that the basic differences were immense and defied genuine comparison. Horsemen trainers cannot communicate with their charges (although I know some athletic coaches who would say the same).

They have to rely on their skilled insight and judgement to assess the right distances for a horse, the appropriate mixture of work and exercise, and the state of his or her fitness. At the crucial stage of race performance, they have to leave much in the hands of a third party, the jockey. Together, trainer, jockey and horse have to contend with enormous variations in weather and track conditions.

Accepting all these points, there were still potential areas of common interest. I wanted to know how galloping technology had affected the trainers' procedures and programmes. And I had a big query: why is it that the best time for the Derby is the one set by Mahmood in 1936? In that period, the world mile record has been cut by 20 seconds or so, from 4min 56sec down to 3:46.

Hadn't all the changes in training technique influenced Cecil's profession? Why were horse times



Razzen, the Derby favourite, enjoys a much of Sebastian Coe's jumper prior to seeking classic glory at Epsom on Wednesday

and performance apparently not improved in 52 years?

The answers came fluently, confidently, and with crushing expertise, from a man who has lived with horses all his life — and proved, over and over again, an uncanny ability to get horses' heads in front at the winning post.

Breeding is the first point. This is an industry that depends on good breeding. Not just in the horses, the trainers themselves keep it in families. Henry Cecil's stepfather was Sir Cecil Boyd-Rochford, the Queen's trainer for many years. His wife Julie's father was Noel Murless, Newmarket, the capital of racing, with its rolling, manicured heath where the equine great good and indif-

ferent learn and practise together each day, is a village community where skills and knowledge are handed down through generations.

Over the years, racehorses have been bred for pace, apparently at the expense of strength — which Cecil called "constitution". He bemoaned the loss of the sturdy German blood lines some years ago. The outcome is that modern racehorses cannot be worked too hard, for fear of "bursting" them. So the interval training successful in athletics cannot be transferred to this sport.

Second, the thoroughbreds that thrill us in the Derby, the Oaks, and so on, are young animals. In human equivalents, they are but

eight years old, too young in Cecil's view for the tough methods of the athletic coach.

There is also for Cecil "only a certain amount of petrol in the tank". Thoroughbreds have a limited racing life. It is easy to let two-year-olds do too much, and then they disappoint the following year.

This was only an informal discussion, and not a detailed, scientific analysis. Although Cecil was interested in the different physiological approach of the modern athlete and his coach, he is an old-fashioned man. He would have been happier living 100 years ago. (He regrets that "the Sport of Kings has become an industry — and a cut-throat one").

He has never timed a horse; he does not take a pulse. His reliance is upon the trained, expert eye, ears and hands of the horseman.

Trainers have tried more scientific approaches — Martin Pipe, for example. His style and methods are successful in National Hunt racing, but Cecil will have none of them.

Julie Cecil is his partner and she took a full part in our discussions. Interestingly, she asked me how much would I expect to "blow" after a race? My reply was, not at all. For athletes, races are meant to be days off. The hard work is done in training, preparing the body and mind for greater exertions than should usually be necessary on the track. But the Cecil horses

will run their full race distance only in the target race itself. He gave the example of a horse scheduled for the 2½-mile Gold Cup; beforehand, the horse would be tried no further than 1½ miles.

We found much common ground in talking about race performance, getting an athlete, or a horse, to the right condition at the right time and place. Cecil's winter training programme builds up stamina, as does the athlete's.

Then he also moves from trot to canter to gallop as the season and the targets approach. But throughout, Cecil uses only his insight and experience to make the vital judgements — without recourse to the stopwatch and medical assess-

ments which are the stock in trade of the athletic coach.

On the day, we both agreed that our respective champions can be spotted early. I can expect to look up and down a 1500 metre field waiting for the gun and pick out the eyes that are ready for the fray. Cecil can also see a champion in the ring. That horse is assessing the surroundings, the other beasts; the real champion is "the leader of the herd", and it shows, before the horses hammer in earnest.

We agreed that both the champion horse and human may be deceptive in training. They are, or can appear, lazy. They hold back their real power and grace for the days that matter. The owner of Reference Point had a disappointing visit to see his horse before the 1987 Derby. Cecil was pleased with him; he could see the salt had worked a little harder than usual. But Reference Point was still behind some average horses in a gallop. However, on the day at Epsom he led from start to finish and made his owner happy.

Both Cecils had what may seem surprising comments on the roughness of modern middle-distance running. They felt that jockeys would be warned off if they behaved in races like many of today's 800 and 1500 metre runners!

For both of us, sitting behind our different shields of experience and aptitude, the important knowledge is about the individual and not the event. Great coaches worry about their man or woman. Henry Cecil worries about his horse. For both, the gift is sensitivity. It is the appreciation of their charge's ability, condition and readiness. It is knowing when to back off, and when to push.

These decisions are most vital close to the big days. For me, the hardest period for an athlete to get right is three weeks before the major competition; and Cecil had similar views. But we differed on "peaking". A top runner can peak only once in an athletic season; the tricks are to time this right, and then to hold it for a week or two. But Cecil can hope and expect that his thoroughbreds will peak two or three times; for example, for the Derby on the first Wednesday of June and for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in early October.

I went to Warren Place to talk about science. Henry Cecil convinced me of his art. To walk around his stables at Warren Place is to tour a major art gallery or collection. You are conscious of the vast sums in investment, almost as much as the fine pictures of equine condition.

Maybe there is room for athletic technology in the grooming of winning racehorses, to enhance their speed and performance; Cecil has not yet convinced me otherwise. But I am sure that his kind of skill and insight will remain the vital and necessary ingredient. His is an art, and one that I admired, but it is one that could yet benefit in the future from the appliance of some post-war science.

## Sanglamore takes Chantilly by storm

FROM MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT, PARIS

PAT Eddery survived a stewards' inquiry at a rain-soaked Chantilly yesterday to win his third Prix du Jockey-Club Lancia on Sanglamore.

The reigning champion jockey is now firmly on target for a determined attempt to credit Khaled Abdullah and first-season trainer Roger Charlton with a fabulous Derby double with Quest For Fame at Epsom on Wednesday.

"I held him up to get the trip," said Eddery after Sanglamore had swept to a half-length win over Epervier Bleu, the even-money favourite, with the Aga Khan's fast-finishing Erdelistan the same distance away a third.

"I thought that he was coming to the end of his tether when winning over a mile and a quarter at York, so I rode him accordingly. But he quickened magnificently, stayed on well and is a champion. Quest For Fame is much the same sort of horse, so we're hoping for the best on Wednesday."

Two furlongs from home, as Eddery was bringing the eventual winner through the post, he swerved into Fred's Head on the weakening Roi De Rome.

"Anvari suddenly stopped in front of me so I had to snatch Sanglamore up to take avoiding action," Eddery explained when the all-clear was given after a 10-minute delay.

Eddery's previous wins in the French Derby were gained on Caerleon and Hours After. And Sanglamore was, of course, repeating Old Vic's triumph for Britain under Steve Cauthen in France's most important classic last season.

What a magnificent feat of training did this victory represent by Charlton in his first season to hold a licence. And how proud Jeremy Tree must have been as his one-time protégé gave historic Beckhampton its first win in a Derby since Fred Darling captured a wartime Derby with Pont L'Évêque at Newmarket in 1940.

Acknowledging this, Abdullah said: "I am so glad for Jeremy as well. Don't forget

there's been two trainers of this horse.

"It hasn't even begun to sink in yet," said the 40-year-old Charlton, who gave up a career in stockbroking to enter racing. "Sanglamore is an improving horse, but I still came here hoping at the best to finish in the first three. He and Quest for Fame have never worked together, but he's a similar type of horse. I wouldn't read too much into that, though."

Sanglamore's home-bred triumph gave Abdullah his first Derby win since the Saudi Arabian banker first entered British racing 12 years ago. Known Fact gave him his first classic win in the 1980 2,000 Guineas on the disqualification of Nuyeyev.

Rainbow Quest was also awarded the 1985 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on the disqualification of Sagace. And, of course, at Epsom on Wednesday, Quest For Fame will be out to make amends to his owner for the unlucky defeat of Dancing Brave, the champion racehorse of the Eighties, in the 1986 Derby.

Alex Scott's strongly-fancied Theatrical Charmer flattered only to deceive when challenging two furlongs from home and eventually finished seventh. "I am afraid his run only lasted for a furlong," said Willie Carson to Sheikh Mohammed. "We could certainly have done without the rain."

Anvari also disappointed and finished last but one. "He didn't stay," said a disappointed Michael Roberts. "They were really getting their toes in and we were beaten a long way from home."

This welcome British win has given a boost to two contenders for Wednesday's Derby. Not only is it a pointer to the chance of Quest For Fame, but that of Karinga Bay, who finished such a creditable runner-up to Sanglamore at York.

Ladbroke's reacted by cutting Quest For Fame's price to 8-1, but even at his reduced odds, Abdullah's stoutly-bred colt looks a sound each-way

bet. Karinga Bay's odds have shortened from 20-1 to 14-1.

Scott gained some compensation when Nabeel Dancer, wearing a visor for the first time, landed the group two Prix du Gros Chêne in the hands of the indomitable Eddery.

The winner, well beaten behind Dayjur at Sandown only six days earlier, was returned at 31-10 on the parimutuel.

The Northern Dancer colt fairly flew from the stalls and soon held a clear lead which his rivals never looked like reducing on the good to soft ground. Ron's Victory, the favourite, ran on close home, but Nabeel Dancer was still five lengths in front at the line.

Eddery felt that the application of a visor for the first time had sharpened Nabeel Dancer up and he now heads for the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot where his rivals are likely to include Dayjur, Statobest, Tigani, Argentum, Dead Certain and Booby.

● Joyful Noise, trained by Arthur Moore, came close to pulling off a surprise victory in the Prix la Barbe at Auteuil on Saturday. Ridden by Charlie Swann, Joyful Noise led at the final furlong but was caught and beaten a length by Ma Puce. An 11-1 chance, Joyful Noise earned more than £13,000 in prize-money for connections.

● Sir Basil, trained by Michael Bell and Ian Balding's Free Thinker both gained listed race victories at Milan yesterday. Ridden by Richard Quinn, Sir Basil took the Premio dell'Avenire by four lengths while John Reid took the Premio Verziere on Free Thinker by the same margin.

**Chantilly details**

Going: good to soft. PRIX DU JOCKEY-CLUB LANCIA (Group 1, 3-Y-O colts and fillies £257,353; 1m 4f)

SANGLAMORE ch c Shapero (10) — Ballinderry (K Abdullah) 9-2 Pat Eddery 7-1. Epervier Bleu p c Saint Cyrille — Equus (D Whitecross) 6-4 D Bond 2.

Also ran: Top Waltz (4th), Panoramic (5th), Pressing Gate (6th), Theatrical Charmer (7th), Death (8th), Roi De Rome (10th), Malesherbi (11th), Anvari, Indemine, 12 m. HPS Very Blue, R Chantilly at Beckhampton, Part-Mutuel (net 11 stakes): 10.50; 2.50, 1.30, 3.60, 0.60, 2.20m 2.4m 2.7m.



Charlton's champion: the Roger Charlton-trained Sanglamore and a mud-spattered Pat Eddery are led in after capturing the Prix du Jockey-Club Lancia at Chantilly yesterday

## Sharp N'Early leaves it very late

SHARP N'Early took the paint off the running rail as Pat Eddery squeezed him through a narrow gap to beat Adrai for the Daily Mail Leisure Stakes at Lingfield Park on Saturday.

Richard Hanson feared that his colt was going to be shut out, but the game four-year-old went through the hole like a terrier and showed a touch of class as

he quickened. The target now is the Cork and Orrery Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Hanson announced he was thinking of paying about £14,000 to supplement his dual Guineas winner Tirol for the wouldn't be taking on older horses if he went to the French race, he explained.

Eddery went on to complete a

double, leading all the way on Flamingo Pond to upset the odds laid on If Memory Serves in the Daily Mail Admiral Stakes.

Rebellion was a disappointing favourite in Sharp N'Early's race but Guy Harwood, his trainer, had earlier scored with Torcello, who finally found top gear in the final furlong.

## Confidence wanes in River God after weekend of doubt

By GEORGE RAE

RIVER God survives as a Derby runner, but those backers who fastened on it late last week as the each-way value will hardly be encouraged by the weekend's events.

Having worked badly on Saturday, there were clear signals from Henry Cecil's stable yesterday that he would miss Epsom in favour of the Queen's Vase at Ascot, giving him the benefit of the extra two weeks until the Royal meeting.

However, Anthony Stroud, Sheikh Mohammed's racing manager, confirmed that the River God would be in the line-up, although it is hard to believe the colt goes with anything approaching a vote of confidence.

Razzen, the ante-post favourite, is reported in good fettle, though. Cecil has no plans to introduce him to the Derby course before Wednesday, unlike the Paul Cole-trained best priced 9-1 with Hills, while Tattenham Corner on Tuesday morning.

"Zoman worked on Saturday with a moderate horse and duly beat him easily," Cole said yesterday. "The plan was to give a confidence booster and it worked out well. He will center at home tomorrow and then have a look at Epsom on Tuesday."

Epsom could be crowded. Blue Stag, trained by Barry Hills, and the French challenger the Chevalier are also scheduled to be in action, while Mondrian trained in Germany, is also expected to gallop there in

preparation for Thursday's Coronation Cup.

Dick Hern, seeking his fourth Derby win with Elmasnoul, has yet to decide whether to equip him with blinkers. Here, however, is even more guarded than usual over his prospects: "I can only give him an each-way chance," he said yesterday.

The outstanding riding arrangements have also been clarified. Tony Clark fulfils peace-making duties, as he has done twice before for Guy Harwood's stable in the Derby, on Aromatic. Bruce Raymond partners Treble Eight for Michael Jarvis, and John Williams comes in for his first Derby ride on David Elsworth's outsider, Bookcase.

The success of Sanglamore in yesterday's Prix du Jockey-Club Lancia at Chantilly sparked the only movements in the Derby betting. Quest For Fame, also trained by Roger Charlton, was generally reduced and is now a best priced 9-1 with Hills, while Karinga Bay, second to Sanglamore in the Dante Stakes at York, is in to 14-1 (from 20-1).

In Ladbroke's betting, Razzen remains favourite at 11-4, followed by 6-1 Zoman, 7-1 Linamix, 8-1 Blue Stag and Quest For Fame, 10-1 Elmasnoul, 14-1 Digression and Karinga Bay, 16-1 Duke Of Paducah, 20-1 others.

Looking beyond the Derby, Cecil also confirmed the continuing improvement of Belmez, the Chester Vase winner, and his intention to run the colt in the King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot later this month.

## Wajd misses the Oaks

WAJD, quoted as low as 4-1 for the Gold Seal Oaks at Epsom on Saturday, will miss the race. She is one of the chief sufferers of an outbreak of coughing in Andre Fabre's Chantilly stable (George RAE writes).

Bookmakers reacted by trimming Michael Stoute's Kartajana to 7-4 and 15-8, with Salsabil, the 1,000 Guineas winner, generally 9-4. In The Groves, successful in the Irish 1,000 Guineas, is 11-4.

There may be further twists in store. Salsabil's connections have always stressed that her participation is dependent on the ground, and with fast going still prevailing she should not yet be considered a certain

starter. David Elsworth has also still to declare in The Groves a definite runner.

She has the Prix de Diane at Chantilly as an alternative, and Elsworth will not be hurried into a decision. He is likely to wait until the middle of the week before announcing his intentions.

Ti's withdrawal of Wajd, the intended mount of Pat Eddery, complicates the outlook for Moon Cactus, who is also owned by Sheikh Mohammed. Henry Cecil is looking seriously at the Prix de Diane in view of Moon Cactus's preference for a right-handed course, but Sheikh Mohammed may now prefer her to represent him at Epsom.















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● CRICKET 34  
● TENNIS 35

# SPORT

MONDAY JUNE 4 1990

## James's plucky thirteenth

By MITCHELL PLATT  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

MARK James yesterday secured his thirteenth success on the PGA European Tour when, with a final round of 67, he won the Dunhill British Masters at Woburn.

On an overcast day, when heavy showers dampened the hitherto parched fairways of the Duke's course, James began by sharing the lead with David Feherty and the Australian, Brett Ogilvie. He took command with an outward half of 30 and completed a flawless effort to win the first prize of £50,000 with an aggregate of 270, 18 under par.

Feherty played the first nine holes in 31 to remain a threat but he could not afford to drop the shots he did at the 11th and 13th with James in such an authoritative mood. He finished with a 69 for second place on 272, two ahead of Carl Mason (67), whose best performance this was since 1987.

From his victory James should derive confidence for his forthcoming assault on the US Open, although Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam, both of whom finished in the pack, will want to erase this week from their minds.

The decision to change putters after the first round unquestionably helped James, as he proved by holing from 15, 8, 35 and 20 feet at the 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th for birdies. He extracted a birdie from the 8th in each round.

His consistency from tee to green won him the title. He did not drop a shot from the 11th hole in the second round and in the final round the only green he missed in regulation was the 17th. It would seem he made a sound decision last week in switching to stiffer shafts and increasing the thickness of his grips.

"I am not looking forward to the US Open any more than I was before this tournament began," James said.

Faldo and Woosnam did little to enhance their confidence with the US Open little more than two weeks away. Faldo threatened to accelerate from out of the pack, beginning with three birdies in succession from the second, but he lost his momentum when he dropped a shot at the 9th. His prospects of defending the title had long since evaporated when he took six at the 15th and another six at the next.

Faldo has an opportunity to put this disappointment behind him in the Western Open, which starts at Butler National on Thursday, before moving on to the US Open at Medinah on the outskirts of Chicago. The same cannot be stated with any conviction as far as Woosnam is concerned.

The Welshman, by his own admission, is in turmoil. He had three sixes and one seven in his 74, although he might have slept easier if it had not been for his lack of authority



Ironing out the rough in a smooth round: James sets off an explosion of divots as he aims for a 67 and top prize

on the greens. Woosnam will decide this morning whether or not to withdraw from the Scandinavian Open at Drottningholm, Stockholm, this week. He has a heavy cold.

"I feel as if I cannot hole a putt from six inches," he said. "I have never felt like this before. It could be that I am losing my nerve. I certainly cannot put my finger on what is wrong, although I do know that I would seem to be not far away from having the yips."

"I have to decide whether or not I would be better staying at home rather than going to the Scandinavian Open and missing the halfway cut."

Runner-up to Curtis Strange in the US Open last year, Woosnam could have used a little of the good fortune that came the way of Mack McNulty. He had a hole in one at the 11th, where he used a four-iron, and earned a crate of champagne for it.

Wayne Riley, of Australia, was not so fortunate. He damaged his ankle when attempting to help move a television buggy, close to which his ball had finished, at the 17th. Riley, who had to withdraw, was taken to hospital, where he was relieved to learn that the ankle was not broken.

### Leden grounded

Judy Leden, from Camberley, the women's world high gliding champion has pulled out of the British team for the European championships in Yugoslavia later this month because of commitments to her sponsor. Her place has gone to Andi Nelson, from Northampton.

### Soviet disappears

MOSCOW (AFP) — Vladimir Reznichenko, of the Soviet Union, the 1987 world fencing champion, has gone missing after an international tournament in Milan. He failed to show up at the airport for the return trip.

### FINAL SCORES FROM WOBURN

GB and Ireland unless stated  
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